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CONTENTS

WINTER HAWK POPULATION TRENDS	67-78
FALL MEETING	79-81
OBITUARY	81
BIRDING AREAS OF IOWA	82-86
SPECIALS IN 1974 BANDING	86-88
BIRD CASUALTIES AT ALLEMAN	88-90
UNUSUAL IOWA BIRD RECORDS	90-91
FIELD REPORTS	92-95
GENERAL NOTES	78, 95-99
BOOK REVIEWS	99-104
NOTICES	104

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Winter Hawk Population Trends In Iowa

DARWIN KOENIG

DECORAH, IOWA

PART II

(See *Iowa Bird Life* Vol. 45, p. 42-48 for Part I)

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*

DuMont -- "A fairly common summer resident, most common in the eastern and southeastern portions of the state and less common in the northwest. Probably a number of individuals are permanent residents."

Brown -- "Common permanent resident."

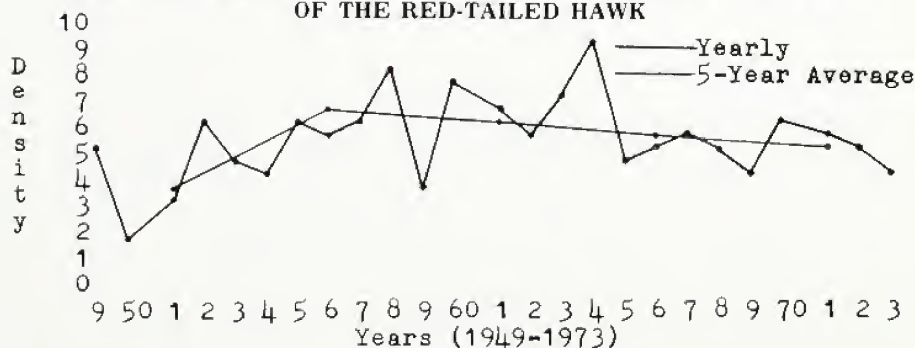
The Red-tailed Hawk was the most numerous species of hawk observed during the study period, accounting for 42 percent of all hawks seen (table 8). It was also the most frequently encountered, being found on 88 percent of the counts (table 8). It was less numerous in the north and the west than in the south and the east. Figure 6 shows that the peak densities of the Red-tailed were found from 1958 to 1964. Figure 14 shows that the Red-tailed has been found with increasing frequency, but the density is decreasing (figure 6). The highest number of Red-tailed Hawks on a count was 80 at Davenport in 1958.

Apparently the Red-tailed Hawk was uncommon in Iowa, in winter, prior to the middle 1940's, but has increased since then. Brown (1964) reports that the number of Red-tailed (per party) has increased steadily on Iowa CBC's since 1946. Graber and Golden (1960) show the Red-tailed in Illinois to be relatively stable since 1942. Bock and Smith (1971) give the Red-tailed population trend in Colorado as stable since 1950. James (1967) and Boyajian (1968) show increasing Red-tailed numbers on CBC's from their respective areas.

TABLE 8
RED-TAILED HAWK

	Number Observed	Percent	Density (No. per 100 mi)	Frequency of Occurrence No. of counts	Percent
North	838	24	4.5	123	41
South	2,640	76	6.7	174	59
East	2,690	77	6.8	204	69
West	788	23	4.2	93	31
Total	3,478 (42 percent of total hawk no.'s)			297 (88 percent of total counts)	

FIGURE 6
YEARLY AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE DENSITIES (NO. PER 100 MI)
OF THE RED-TAILED HAWK



FREQUENCY (PERCENT OF COUNTS) OF OCCURRENCE

FIGURE 14

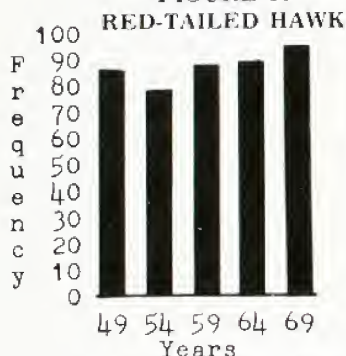
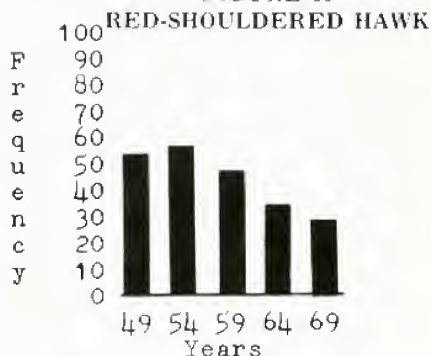


FIGURE 15



The year indicates the beginning of the 5-year period.

Red-shouldered Hawk *Buteo lineatus*

DuMont -- "A fairly common summer resident in the southern half of the state, uncommon or rare in the northern half; a few are permanent residents."

Brown -- "Rare permanent resident."

The Red-shouldered Hawk is somewhat of an enigma. It apparently increased in numbers and range from the late 1930's to the early 1950's (Stewart, 1949), leading to Grant (1963) classifying it as a common permanent resident. However, it soon started declining (Brown, 1964).

The Red-shouldered Hawk accounted for 4 percent of the total hawk population and occurred on 41 percent of all counts (table 9). Its density and frequency were highest in the south and the east. Figure 7 illustrates the decline of the Red-shouldered density from 2.8/100 party-miles in 1949 to .04/100 party-miles in 1973. Frequency of occurrence is also declining (figure 15). For the first 13 years of the period the Red-shouldered reached a peak density every 3 years, albeit a lower peak each cycle. After 1961 the three-year cycle ceases to be evident, possibly due to the decreased numbers reported. In 1949 the percentage of Red-shouldered Hawks to Red-tailed Hawks was 53 percent. By 1973 it had shrunk to 1 percent. For a more detailed discussion of the Red-shouldered decline in Iowa, see Brown (1964). The maximum number of Red-shouldered Hawks seen on a count was 22 at Davenport in 1958.

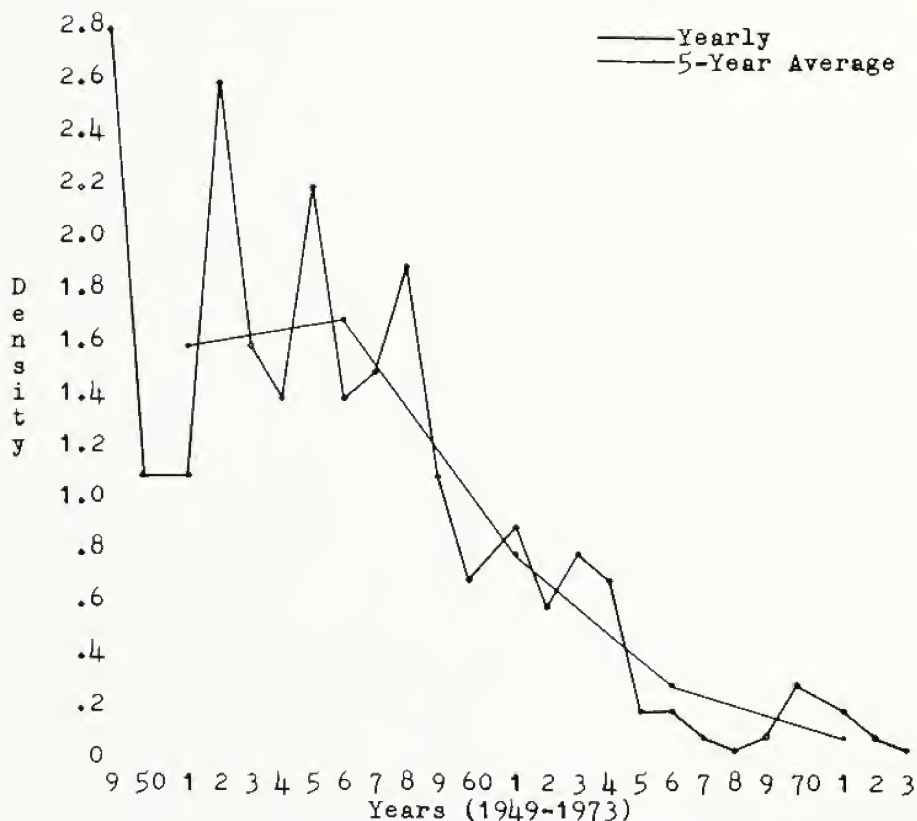
Nationally, the Red-shouldered Hawk is decreasing as well. Arbib (1974) includes it on the Blue List for 1975. Peterson (1969a:532) states "The Red-shouldered hawk is the one to watch. In New England it has dropped precipitously in numbers." Brown (1971a) shows that, with two exceptions, the Red-shouldered has been found in decreasing densities throughout its range since 1950. Brown (1972) also presents a map of the early winter distribution of the Red-shoulder.

TABLE 9

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK

	Number		Density	Frequency of Occurrence	
	Observed	Percent	(No. per 100 mi)	No. of counts	Percent
North	76	22	.4	52	37
South	276	78	.7	88	63
East	297	84	.7	120	86
West	55	16	.3	20	14
Total	362 (4 percent of total hawk no.'s)			140 (41 percent of total counts)	

FIGURE 7
YEARLY AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE DENSITIES (NO. PER 100 MI)
OF THE RED-SHOULDERED HAWK



Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus*

DuMont -- "An uncommon spring and fall migrant, occasionally appearing in great numbers."

Brown -- "Common migrant, rare breeding bird."

The Broad-winged Hawk should be far south of Iowa during the winter, so it is somewhat surprising that 17 were recorded on 9 counts during the study period. Most of the observations were from Davenport (14 on 6 counts). Decorah, Cedar Falls, and Cedar Rapids also reported Broad-winged Hawks. Graber and Golden (1969) found that relatively large numbers of Broad-winged Hawks were reported on Illinois CBC's. They felt that many of the Broad-winged records were cases of mistaken identity and suggested that winter records should be verified by collecting. The author feels that the same situation exists in Iowa, although it is doubtful that the Broad-winged/Red-shouldered Hawk mix-up is any greater than that between the three Accipiter species or, perhaps, between the melanistic Buteos.

Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni*

DuMont -- "An uncommon migrant; a summer resident of decidedly local distribution."

Brown -- "Rare breeding bird."

The Swainson's Hawk, like the Broad-winged, should be far south of Iowa by winter. However, seven Swainson's were reported from three localities during the study period. Two at Des Moines in 1961, three at Shenandoah in 1970, and two from Cedar Rapids in 1971. Arbib (1974) includes it on the Blue List for 1975.

Rough-legged Hawk *Buteo lagopus*

DuMont -- "Fairly common winter visitor in the northern part of the state, somewhat less numerous in the southern half."

Brown -- "Common winter resident."

The Rough-legged Hawk was the third most common hawk found during the study period. It comprised 11 percent of the total hawk population and occurred on 66 percent of the total counts (table 10). Figure 8 shows that the highest Rough-legged densities occurred from 1958 to 1964, with a decided decrease since. It has occurred with increasing frequency, however, (figure 16). The Rough-legged density was highest in the north and the west, although total numbers and frequency of occurrence were higher in the south and the east (table 10). The highest number of Rough-legged Hawks reported on a count was 46 at Buffalo Center in 1964. Graber and Golden (1960) found that the Rough-legged "cycled" about every four years in Illinois. Figure 8 gives some indication of a three-year cycle in Iowa.

The Rough-legged Hawk is a particularly unwary and lethargic bird making it an easy victim of "gunners". Bent (1937), Pough (1951), May (1935), and Graber and Golden (1960) comment on this fact. It also suffers mortality from automobiles; see Weller (1964), White (1969), and Youngworth (1961).

TABLE 10
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK

	Number Observed	Percent	Density (No. per 100 mi)	Frequency of Occurrence No. of counts	Percent
North	417	45	2.2	87	39
South	513	55	1.3	136	61
East	592	64	1.5	143	64
West	338	36	1.8	80	36
Total	930 (11 percent of total hawk no.'s)			223 (66 percent of total counts)	

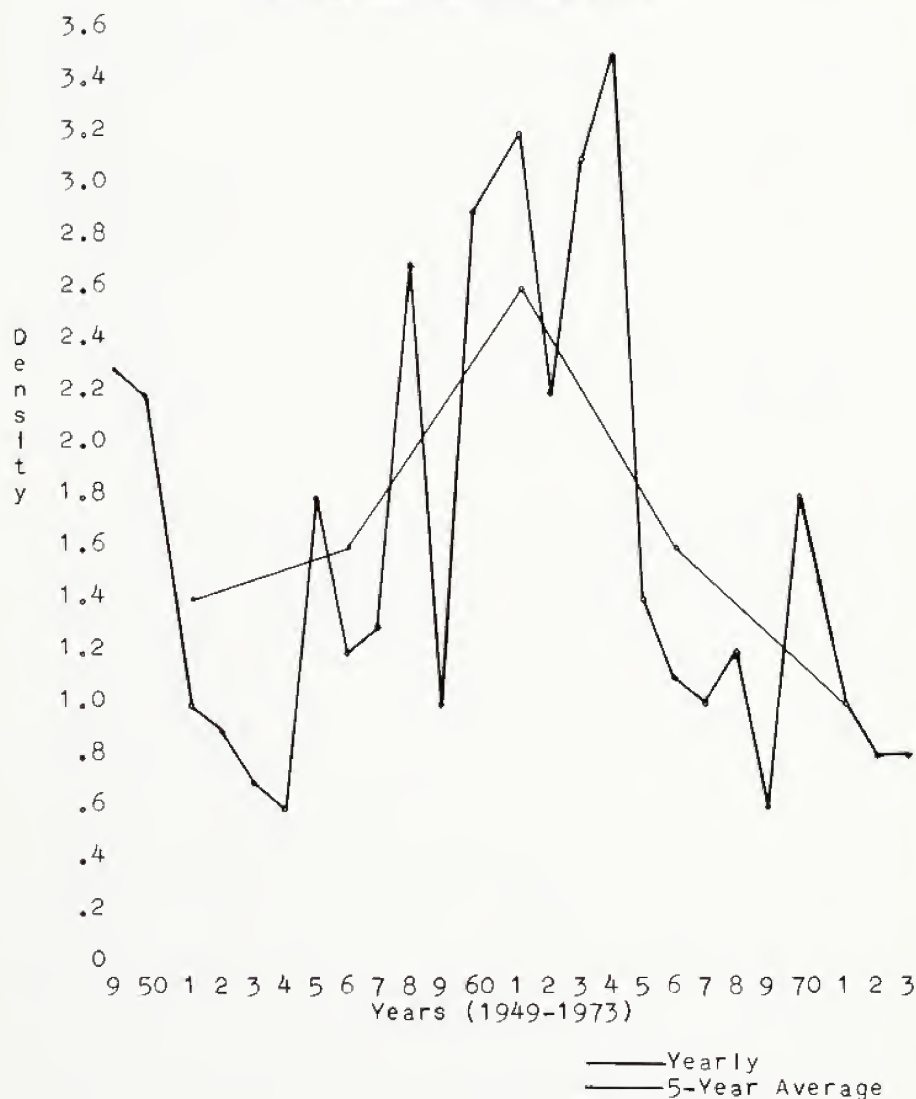
Ferruginous Hawk *Buteo regalis*

DuMont -- "An irregular and decidedly uncommon migrant in the western part of the state, rarely straggling into the eastern portion."

Brown -- "Casual."

A total of three Ferruginous Hawks was reported; far east of their usual range. One from the Wapsipicon River Valley in 1966, one at Ames in 1972, and one at Shenandoah in 1970. Arbib (1974) includes it on the Blue List for 1975.

FIGURE 8
YEARLY AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE DENSITIES (NO. PER 100 MI)
OF THE ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK

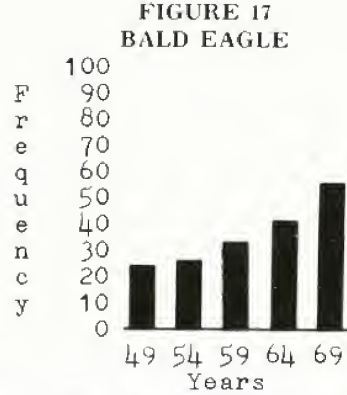
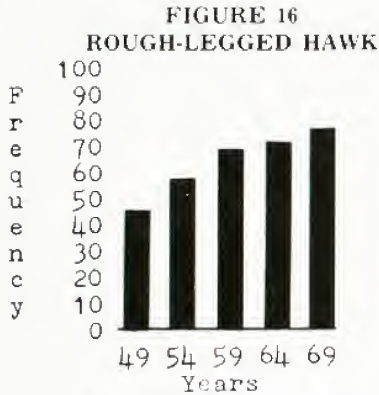


Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

DuMont -- "An irregular straggler from the west."

Brown -- "Rare migrant."

Nine Golden Eagles were reported from seven counts during the study period. Although primarily found west of Iowa, most of the reports of Golden Eagles came from localities along the Mississippi River in eastern Iowa; presumably they were in association with Bald Eagles. Davenport recorded two in 1962 for the high count.



The year indicates the beginning of the 5-year period.

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

DuMont -- "An uncommon migrant along the larger rivers of the state, less numerous through the interior; occasionally found in winter."

Brown -- "Common migrant and winter resident."

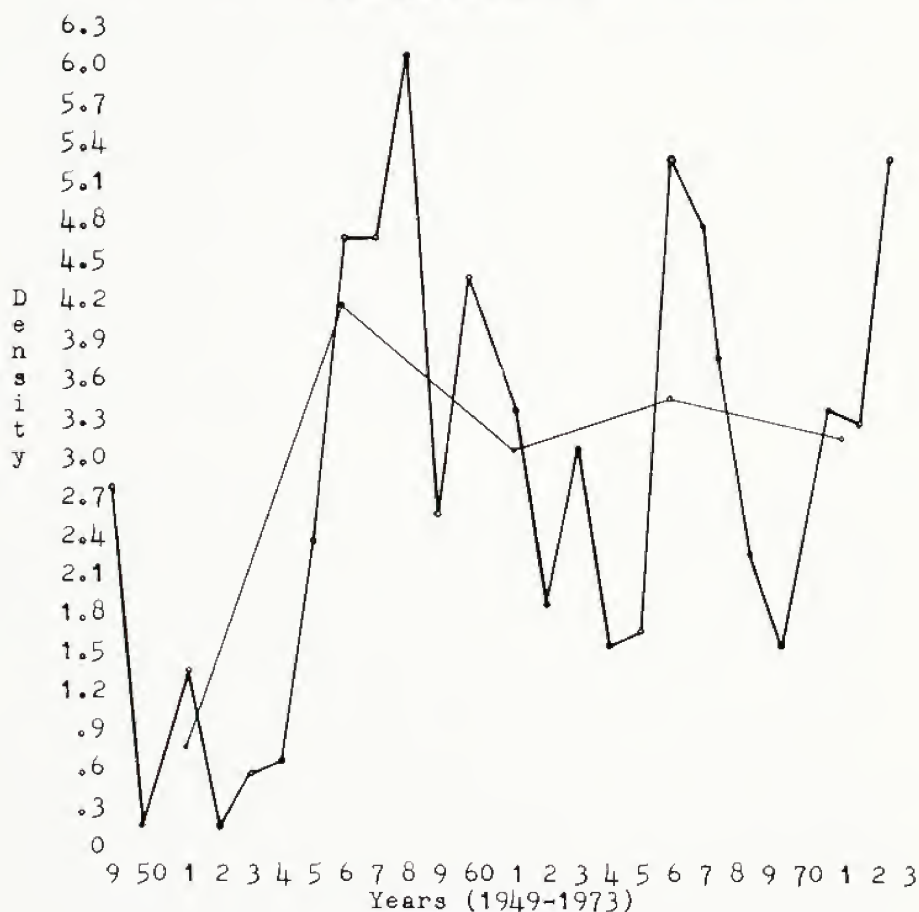
The Bald Eagle was the second most numerous "hawk" reported during the study period. It constituted 23 percent of the total hawk population and occurred on 38 percent of the total counts (table 11). It was much more numerous in the south and the east than in the north and the west. Only 53 (3 percent) of the 1,895 Bald Eagles reported were found on counts away from the Mississippi River. It was the only hawk species that significantly increased in density during the 25-year period (figure 9). This is unusual for the Bald Eagle is declining nationally (Sprunt, 1969). Frequency of occurrence for the Bald Eagle has also increased (figure 17). The highest number of Bald Eagles on a count was 114 at Davenport in 1958.

The increase in Bald Eagle density is probably the result of two factors: (1) the building of dams and power plants in the Upper Mississippi River Valley, resulting in a shift in the eagles wintering distribution, and (2) an increased number of localities reporting counts from along the Mississippi River. The dams and power plants create open water areas and contribute to fish kills (see Ingram, 1965 and Fawks, 1960), enticing the eagles to winter farther north (in greater numbers) than was usual in the past. In the 5-year period 1949 to 1953 only 12 counts were reported from 3 Mississippi River locations. These increased to 35 counts and 7 locations along the Mississippi River in the 5-year period 1969 to 1973. Hodges (1959) presents a good study of the Bald Eagle in Iowa. See also Graber and Golden's (1960) discussion of the Bald Eagle in Illinois.

TABLE 11
BALD EAGLE

	Number Observed	Percent	Density (No. per 100 mi)	Frequency of Occurrence No. of counts	Percent
North	172	9	.9	50	39
South	1,723	91	4.4	79	61
East	1,859	98	4.7	115	89
West	36	2	.2	14	11
Total	1,895 (23 percent of total hawk no.'s)			129 (38 percent of total counts)	

FIGURE 9
YEARLY AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE DENSITIES (NO. PER 100 MI)
OF THE BALD EAGLE



Marsh Hawk *Circus cyaneus*

DuMont -- "... found rather frequently in winter, especially in the southern part of the state."

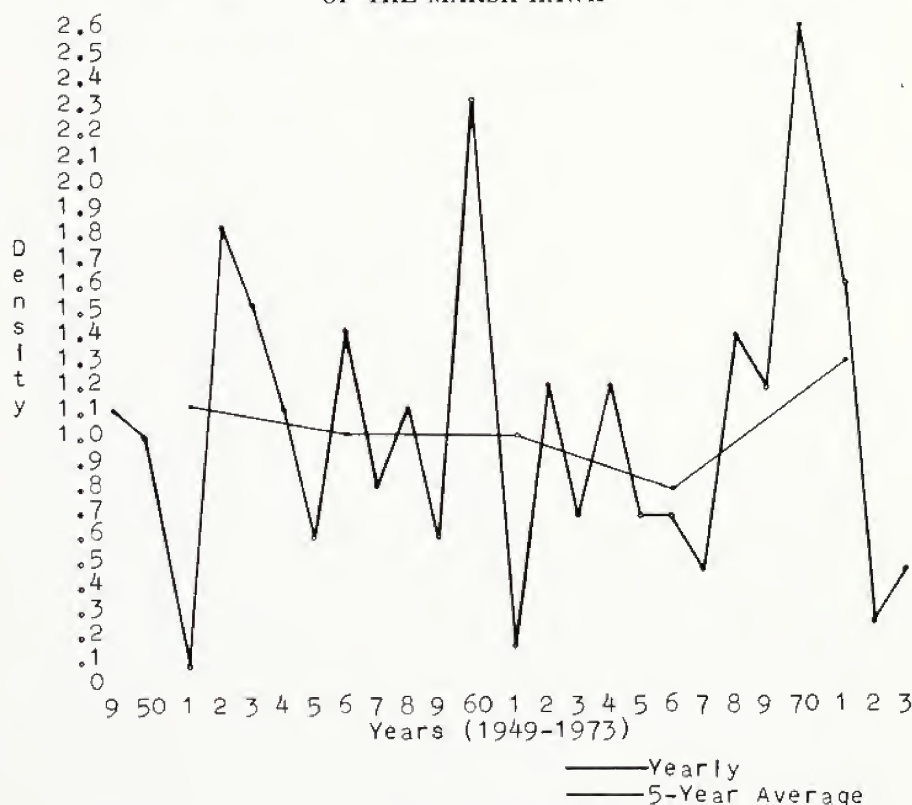
Brown -- "Common migrant and uncommon permanent resident."

The Marsh Hawk comprised 7 percent of the total hawk population and occurred on 47 percent of the total counts (table 12). The highest densities were found in the south and the west. Figure 10 shows that the Marsh Hawk densities generally reach a peak every other year; also that the population has remained relatively stable. Graber and Golden (1960) present evidence of a two-year cycle for the Marsh Hawk in Illinois. The frequency of occurrence for the Marsh Hawk has increased during the study period (figure 18). The highest number of Marsh Hawks observed on a count was 32 at Shenandoah in 1970.

Arbib (1974) placed the Marsh Hawk on the Blue List for 1975. Brown (1973) presents data on national Marsh Hawk densities for the period of 1952 to 1971.

TABLE 12
MARSH HAWK

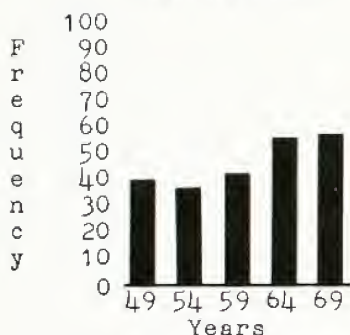
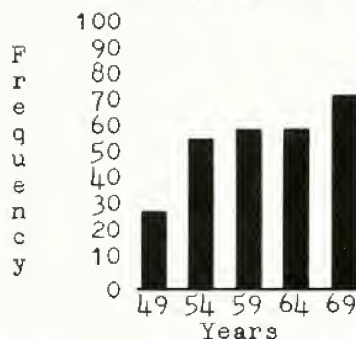
	Number Observed	Percent	Density (No. per 100 mi)	Frequency of Occurrence No. of counts	Percent
North	91	15	.5	34	21
South	528	85	1.3	125	79
East	372	60	.9	94	59
West	247	40	1.3	65	41
Total	619 (7 percent of total hawk no.'s)			159 (47 percent of total counts)	

FIGURE 10
YEARLY AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE DENSITIES (NO. PER 100 MI)
OF THE MARSH HAWK**Osprey *Pandion haliaetus***

DuMont -- "An uncommon migrant along the larger rivers of the state, somewhat rare or irregular through the interior."

Brown -- "Uncommon migrant."

A total of five Ospreys was recorded from four counts, all at Davenport, during the study period. The Osprey is apparently declining nationally. Arbib (1974) includes it on the Blue List for 1975. Peterson (1969b), Stickel (1969), Postupalsky (1969), and Berger and Mueller (1969) comment on the decrease in Osprey populations.

FIGURE 18
MARSH HAWKFIGURE 19
AMERICAN KESTREL

The year indicates the beginning of the 5-year period.

Prairie Falcon *Falco mexicanus*

DuMont -- "A rare straggler in Iowa."

Brown -- "Casual."

Three individuals of this western falcon were reported, all in the northwest. One at Sioux City in 1949 and 1952 and one at Union Slough in 1958. Arbib (1974) includes it on the Blue List for 1975.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

DuMont -- "A rare migrant."

Brown -- "Rare migrant."

Single Peregrine Falcons appeared at Davenport in 1957; Clinton, 1964; Decorah, 1969; and Shenandoah, 1970. Hickey et al (1969) discusses in detail the decline of the Peregrine Falcon.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

DuMont -- "An uncommon migrant, very rarely remaining until December and January."

Brown -- "Uncommon migrant."

Four Merlins were reported during the study period. One at Guernsey in 1957, one at Davenport in 1957 and 1959, and one at Burlington in 1965. Arbib (1974) includes it on the Blue List for 1975.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*

DuMont -- "... occasionally found in winter."

Brown -- "Common breeding bird, uncommon permanent resident."

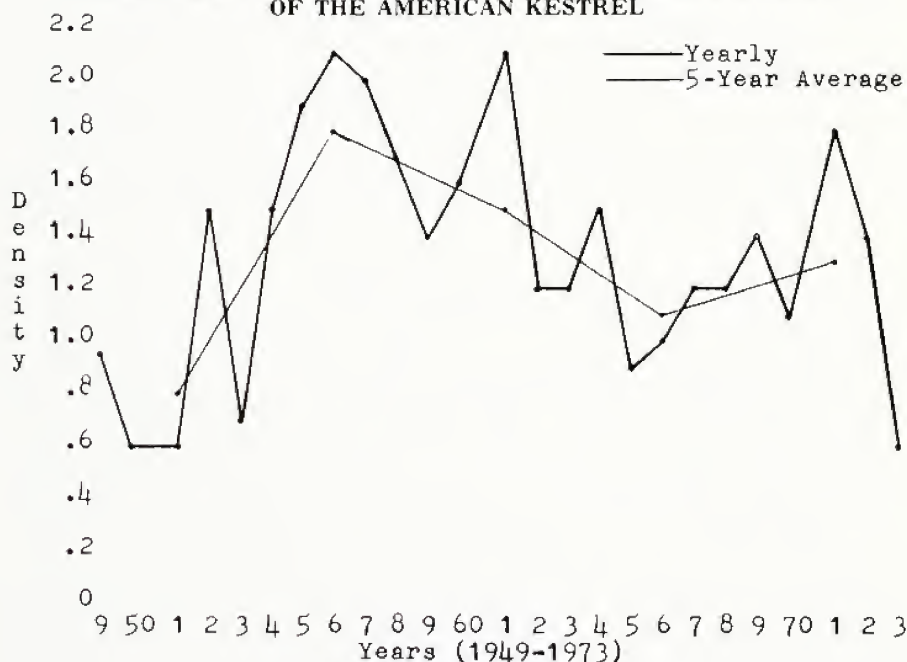
The American Kestrel comprised 9 percent of the total hawk population and occurred on 57 percent of the total counts (table 13). Density was highest in the south and the west for this little falcon. Figure 11 shows that the American Kestrel reached its highest densities in the middle 1950's. The frequency of occurrence increased throughout the study period (figure 19). The most American Kestrels observed on one count was 24 at Shenandoah in 1972.

Nationally, the American Kestrel seems to be holding its own; Boyajian (1968), James (1972), and Bock and Smith (1971) give evidence of a stable population. However, Arbib (1974) includes it on the Blue List for 1974 due to reported declines in some areas.

TABLE 13
AMERICAN KESTREL

	Number Observed	Percent	Density (No. per 100 mi)	Frequency of Occurrence No. of counts	Percent
North	102	13	.5	49	25
South	677	87	1.7	144	75
East	417	54	1.1	110	57
West	362	46	1.9	83	43
Total	779	9 percent of total hawk no.'s)		193	(57 percent of total counts)

FIGURE 11
YEARLY AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE DENSITIES (NO. PER 100 MI)
OF THE AMERICAN KESTREL



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Chuck-will's-widow at Dubuque -- I was awakened about 4:40 a.m. by a strange bird call on a foggy May 22, 1975. At the window the sound came from a row of trees about 150 feet south. Then I could clearly hear the first syllable and the phrase "Chuck-will's-widow". The bird continued uninterrupted for some five minutes while I was locating tape recorder, tape, microphone and relearning how to operate it. By then the call had stopped. When I went outside the bird had moved to some heavy brush about 125 feet to the west. I taped about 25-30 calls, then the bird began flying around the yard about six feet high. Twice it passed over me just out of arm's reach, and all the time one could hear blopping noises made evidently by its mouth, and the snapping of its bill as it was feeding. I taped some of these quite loudly as it flew over me. The bird then disappeared and a play-back of the tape did not attract it. It stayed in the area during the day and was heard for about five minutes in the evening at 9 p.m., then was heard no more. This is the first known record for Dubuque and one of a very few for Iowa. GEORGE CROSSLEY, 1890 Wood St., Dubuque.

CONVENTION



The very well attended fall meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union was held in Cherokee on September 13 and 14, 1975. Members gathered at the Country Kitchen Restaurant on Saturday for the evening meal which was a delicious smorgasbord. Our host was Mrs. Patricia Williams of the Sanford Museum in Cherokee. She introduced herself and then Mr. Lyle Poulsen, a member of the Cherokee Chamber of Commerce, who welcomed the group to Cherokee. He introduced Herb Dorow of Newton whose hummingbird picture was on the front page of the Saturday morning Des Moines Register. Mr. Poulsen also told the group about three community activities in which the citizens of Cherokee take great pride, the community theater, the community symphony and the Sanford Museum. President Dorothy Brunner of Nora Springs responded to the welcome and said she was glad to see such a large group for a fall meeting. She introduced the people at the head table and new members were asked to introduce themselves. Pat Williams discussed the museum program and told the group there would be a chance to see it before the 8:00 p.m. program. Lucile Liljedahl of Marion told the group that Lillian Serbousek of Cedar Rapids sent her regards. The group then proceeded to the Sanford Museum.

The new director of the museum, Karl deRoshefort-Reynolds from Australia, told his view as an archeologist on birds and man from ancient to modern in his welcome. President Brunner responded and announced the spring meeting of the I. O. U. will be in Davenport on May 15-16. She then turned the meeting over to vice president George Crossley who thanked everyone for coming and introduced the speaker, Mrs. Mildred Lohff, of Holstein, Iowa. Mrs. Lohff talked on bird houses and feeders she has made. Following Mrs. Lohff there was a slide fest. Herb Dorow began the fest with pictures of Mrs. Gladys Black's owls. Dorothy Brunner followed with slides taken in Minnesota including a Bohemian Waxwing. Judge Charles Ayers of Ottumwa followed with a series of slides on the life cycle of the Cyclopea Moth. Mrs. Frieda Crossley of Dubuque followed with fungi slides and some of an American Kestrel. George Crossley showed slides of mountains from all over the world. Peter Petersen of Davenport followed with slides of unusual eastern Iowa birds. Lucile Liljedahl followed with slides of the Whooping Crane. George Crossley played a tape of the Chuck-will's-widow which was in Dubuque last spring (see opposite page). The meeting adjourned for the evening.

The group met Sunday morning at the Sheffield Hotel for breakfast at 5:30 a.m. Following breakfast the group left on the morning field trips north and south of Cherokee and to Storm Lake. The group reassembled at the Country Kitchen for the noon meal. Following the meal President Brunner asked for announcements and Judge Ayers was asked to compile the bird list. Judge Ayres announced that Pearl Walker of Ottumwa was in the Ottumwa hospital with a broken hip.

Bird Census - September 14, 1975 -- Eared Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Snow Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Redhead, Ruddy Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Merlin, American Kestrel, Ring-necked Pheasant,

Gray Partridge, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, American Robin, Thrush sp., Eastern Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, C. Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Dickcissel, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, LeConte's Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Tree Sparrow (G.B., C.A., D.A.), Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, and Song Sparrow. -- 94 species. Seen Saturday, Sep. 13. Virginia Rail.

Registered Attendance -- 92

- AMES: Barnett Cook, Jeff and Judy Ruprecht and son.
 BURLINGTON: Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Fuller.
 CARROLL: Lucille S. Fast, Eva B. Wiedemeyer.
 CEDAR FALLS: Mrs. Charles Schwanke and Maxine Schwanke.
 CEDAR RAPIDS: Roberta Oppedahl, Myra G. Willis.
 CENTERVILLE: Mr. and Mrs. Willis Heusinkveld.
 CHEROKEE: Mr. and Mrs. Dick Bierman, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Dewar, Merryl and Ruby Olsen, Lyle and Alice Poulson, Mrs. Mildred Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Williams.
 CONRAD: Mrs. Hazel Stuart.
 CORALVILLE: James H. and Elva Gritton.
 DAVENPORT: Peter and Mary Lou Petersen
 DES MOINES: Mrs. A. J. Binsfield, Mrs. Ruth Buckles, Mrs. Bette Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Mooney.
 DUBUQUE: George and Frieda Crossley, Clifford O. Johnson.
 ESSEX: Betty Walters.
 FAIRFIELD: Viola Hayward.
 HAMBURG: Ione E. Getscher.
 HOLSTEIN: Mr. and Mrs. Mildred Lohff.
 HUMBOLDT: Dorothy Toyne.
 INDIANOLA: Ann and Paul Johnson.
 JAMAICA: Gene and Marilyn Burns.
 LAMONI: Wallace and Genevieve DeLong.
 MARION: Lucile Liljedahl.
 MARSHALLTOWN: Mrs. Helen Grimes, Miss Ruth Knights, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Savage.
 MT. PLEASANT: Ed and Marcy Rolenc.
 NEWTON: Mr. and Mrs. Herb Dorow.
 NORA SPRINGS: Dorothy A. Brunner.
 OTTUMWA: Judge and Mrs. Charles Ayres, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Fulton, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Johnson.

PAULLINA: Mary and Horace Autenrieth, Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Heusinkveld.

PLEASANTVILLE: Mrs. Gladys Black.

ROCK VALLEY: Hilda E. Miller.

SHENANDOAH: Mrs. Don Jennings, Mrs. Wayne Phipps, Mrs. Marie Spears.

SIOUX CITY: Mrs. Helen Barrett, Andy and Nancy Davidson, Robert DeLoss,

Sheila and Roy Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Nickolson and Claudia.

SPIRIT LAKE: Mrs. Lynn Wallace.

STORM LAKE: Frances Heusinkveld, Mrs. Phil Thornton.

TERRIL: Greg and Laurie Anliker.

WEHATLAND: C. Esther Copp.

OMAHA, NEB.: Steve and Kathy Hickok.

Obituary

Dr. Mary Price Roberts, 81, of Portland, Ore., formerly of Spirit Lake, who had been a member of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union since shortly after its founding, died of a heart attack Friday, May 16, 1975, in Dewey Memorial Hospital in Portland after a brief illness.

Dr. Mary had returned to Iowa the end of April to attend Veishea at Iowa State University and had planned to attend the I.O.U. convention, visit relatives and end the trip with her college class's 60th reunion. She was not feeling well after Veishea, however, and remained in Des Moines visiting with a daughter, Mrs. Mary Musgrove, until May 14, when her younger daughter, Mrs. Velma Stevens of Santa Barbara, Calif., accompanied her back to Portland. She became seriously ill the following day.

Dr. Mary, a child psychologist, was born in Spirit Lake. She received a bachelor's degree in nutrition from Iowa State in 1915 and a master's Degree in child psychology in 1930, earning a Doctor of Philosophy degree in parent education and child psychology at the State University of Iowa in 1932.

She worked as a consultant in child psychology for many years, and continued doing some work as a consultant after Dr. Frank suffered a stroke and they moved to California in 1951. She was the author of several bulletins and sections of books on child psychology, as well as numerous magazine articles.

Both Dr. Mary and Dr. Frank were ardent bird watchers, interested in wildlife, and were early leaders in conservation groups.

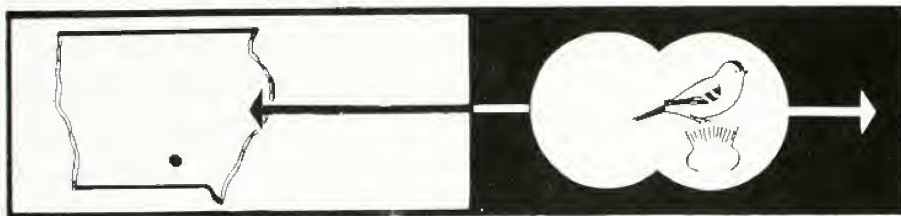
Dr. Mary attended the first training course for guardians of the Camp Fire Girls, where she studied under Ernest Thompson Seton, naturalist and author, establishing a lifelong friendship. She was active in Camp Fire Girls work in Ames and Spirit Lake, was camp director at Spirit Lake several years, and had recently been honored by the Portland Camp Fire Girls.

Both Dr. Roberts and her husband were interested in Indian lore and especially in the welfare of the Sioux on the Pine Ridge, S. D., reservation. Both were adopted by the tribe and Dr. Mary took part in one of their Sun Dances.

Besides I. O. U., Dr. Mary was a member of National Audubon Society, Nature Conservancy, Save the Redwoods League, Order of Eastern Star, Daughters of the American Revolution, Sigma Xi, and the Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Frank, who preceded her in death, was a former president of I. O. U. Besides her two daughters, Dr. Mary is survived by three granddaughters, Mrs. Jean Strueber of Nederland, Colo., Mrs. Marilyn Ailes of Stevens Point, Wis., and Mrs. Janet Shields of San Diego, Calif., and a great-granddaughter, Charsa Ailes.

The family suggests memorial contributions to the National Audubon Society Sanctuary Fund, 950 Third Ave., New York, N. Y. 10022. -- Mrs. Mary Musgrove



Six county area including Ottumwa and Rathbun Lake

Lucas, Wayne, Monroe, and Appanoose -- Written by BILL HEUSINKVELD
with substantial help from CHARLOTTE SCOTT and PEARL EVANS.

Wapello and Davis --Written by CHARLES C. AYRES and DARLEEN AYRES

Introduction The six county area includes 2,592 square miles of rough wooded area interspersed with scattered agricultural land. The Des Moines River valley and surrounding area were shaped by glacial action and terminal morain of the last great glacier which deposited its burden of rock, sand, and silt to form many small hills and rolling terrain. Because of the depth of available underground water, most of the smaller towns have city reservoirs and the farmers have ponds. There are thousands of ponds in the area, every one being a potential for birds, depending on the type of vegetation around it. Many ponds are easily viewed from country roads. CS saw a Purple Gallinule on one recently. They are excellent for viewing migrating ducks.

There was extensive mining of low grade coal in much of the area in the early part of the century with a resultant abnormally large number of towns, many of which are now ghost towns or have disappeared altogether. There are also many isolated small cemeteries with pine, cedar, and shrub plantings which make fine birding spots. Country roads are often unmowed and adjacent pastures with scattered timber provide good cover for many species. There are many hedgerows of Osage Orange giving sanctuary to Bob White and Mourning Doves, prevalent in this part of the state. The country roads provide viewing of the common birds, such as Common Grackle, Red-winged Blackbird, meadowlarks, Blue Jay, Robin, Brown Thrasher, Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Horned Lark, Am. Goldfinch, and Barn Swallow. Field Sparrow and Common Yellowthroat are more often seen than heard, and the Whip-poor-will makes his presence known at night and early morning. The Mockingbird and Yellow-billed Cuckoo are sometimes seen. Railroad rights-of-way, some of them abandoned, make a fine birding walk, winter or summer. Heavily timbered areas harbour deer and Wild Turkeys. The Des Moines River, the Chariton River, Lake Rathbun, and Lake Wapello are the principal bodies of water.

The Rathbun Dam, completed in 1968, formed a lake with a normal surface area of 11,000 acres and 180 miles of beautiful shore line. This lake and the wildlife sanctuary in its upper reaches have become a focal point for birding in the four western counties of the area. The lake is a tourist attraction and a mecca for boaters and campers. Built by the Army Corps of Engineers, its shoreline has been protected from encroachment by private usage. A paved road encircles the lake with many access roads fingering into public use areas. The lake seems to have changed the habits of many waterfowl, as there were incredible numbers of migrating waterfowl the last two springs.

From northwest to southeast the Des Moines River flows through Wapello County, passing through Ottumwa in almost the exact center of the county. The valley of this river with its timber and lush undergrowth has been and still is a principal migration route for countless numbers of birds as they journey between their summer and winter homes. It likewise furnishes suitable habitats for many birds that nest and raise their families, their beauty, song, and feeding habits benefiting the people who reside in the area. The fact that this is a much used migration route is illustrated by a study made by George H. Lowery, Jr., and published by the University of Kansas in 1951. The study shows that based on data furnished by some members of the Ottumwa Bird Club the maximum nightly density of bird flight at Ottumwa, Iowa, the month of May in 1948 was 54,600 birds.

The land north and east of the Des Moines River is largely under cultivation though there are many timbered areas especially along the creeks. South and west of the river the land is more rolling and there are more wooded ravines. Farm ponds are numerous throughout the entire county but marshes are few.

Along the Des Moines River and the numerous creeks which empty into it as well as along the quiet country roads and the railroad right-of-ways one will usually find excellent birding. Town cemeteries and reservoirs often produce fine records, and plowed fields and feedlots should be carefully scrutinized in winter and summer. Whistling Swans and White Pelicans are migrants along the river, and the Bald Eagle may be seen in the winter months especially along the Des Moines River. Snowy Owls, Lapland Longspurs and Short-eared Owls have been seen north of town in the winter and a first record of a Purple Gallinule was obtained in 1974 when one of the birds spent several weeks around a farm pond in the yard of a friend of ours south of Ottumwa.

1. Stephens Forest -- The Lucas and Whitebreast units of this state forest are located southwest and within two miles of the town of Lucas. There is a variety of habitat - tall prairie grass, oak-hickory timber, bottomland timber, and planted conifer stands. Birding is particularly productive in migratory seasons for sparrows, thrush, and warblers. There seems to be an abundance of Towhee at all seasons and one can often see a wild Tom Turkey with his harem. Although the area is characterized by a series of intermittent streams and impoundments, it is not particularly good for any water or wading bird. The entire area is open to hunting in season.

2. Chariton State Forest Reserve -- There are two units of state forest totaling about 3 square miles in N.E. Lucas County and N.W. Monroe County, about seven miles north of Highway 34. These are not easy to find and a county map is helpful. While not much used by the public, one can find some delightful trails through the deep woods.

3. Red Haw State Park -- This is located one mile east of Chariton on the south side of Highway 34. Red Haw has a small lake and campground. It contains a great variety of birds with Green Heron always to be seen in the spring.

4. Lake Ellis and Lake Morris -- Lake Ellis is right north of Red Haw and Lake Morris is two miles further east, both being just north of Highway 34. It is best to go north at the east edge of Lake Morris and drive along the lakes from the east and north for best viewing. There are always Am. Woodcocks, which are enjoyable to watch at mating time in late March and early April. Several pair of Upland Sandpiper have been seen nesting at a farm close to Lake Morris.

5. Colyn Area -- On the far upper reaches of the north fork of the Chariton River, this duck marsh can be reached by going two miles south of the S.W. corner of Russell. During migration, there is quite a variety of birds like Great Egrets, many kinds of ducks, grebes, Am. Coot, heron, and shore birds. On rare occasions,

Little Blue Heron and Cattle Egrets have been seen. Birding can be done from a car.

6. **Miami Lake** -- This game management area has a campground on the east side of the lake. It is three miles east of the town of Lovilia and can be found by following the signs posted on Highway 5 south of Lovilia. Birding is best accomplished from a boat, although there is a foot trail at the S.E. side of the lake. Wood Ducks nest through the summer.

7. **Bob White State Park** -- Go 1½ miles west of Allerton. A wooded campground is north and a picnic area south of the Highway 40 road. Drives are edged with stately Catalpa, Mulberry, and maple trees. Part of the lake is quite inaccessible except from a boat. Bob White and a variety of song birds are in abundance.

8. **Corydon Reservoir** -- Recently the area around the reservoir, which is located one mile south and one mile west of Corydon, has been made into a pleasant and well kept park with picnicking facilities. It has a combination of large deciduous trees and conifers and has the potential of good birding.

9. **Seymour Reservoir** -- This reservoir consists of a lower pond and an upper silting pond and is located one mile south of Seymour. The upper pond is good for shorebirds and waders. The west shore of the lower pond is particularly good for winter birding with its conifers and Multiflora Roses and will usually yield a Mockingbird on the coldest day. Since there are no picnic grounds and it is fairly isolated, it is a good nesting ground for certain species, White-eyed Vireos being the most unusual. Great Egrets are seen in early spring and fall but apparently do not nest. It is possible to hike around the entire pond.

10. **Rathbun Lake** -- This large body of water has many good roads to various spots along the shore line, but a person must have a good map of the area. This can be obtained at the Administration Building at the south end of the dam. The public use areas are swarmed with campers and boaters in the summer but provide excellent birding in early spring for all manner of waterfowl. Bring your scope as the ducks are often far from shore. To see gulls, terns, migrating shorebirds and pelicans, there are several mudflats out from the south shore between the recreational areas of South Fork and Rolling Cove, but a boat is necessary here. A pair of Bald Eagles has taken up residence the past winter and Great Horned Owls have been seen, also a Red-throated Loon and an Oldsquaw. Ring-billed Gulls can be observed best from an observation area at the east end of the dam. Purple Martin houses have been erected at various spots and the population is growing. Cliff Swallows have colonies under the two bridges at the upper end of the lake. Red-tailed Hawks, Turkey Vultures, Marsh Hawks, and Am. Kestrel are numerous in the surrounding countryside in season.

11. **Wildlife Refuse - Rathbun Lake** -- In the upper reaches of the lake, large trees were left standing when the lake filled. These trees are now dead and provide homes for all the cavity nesting species. Most of the area is quite inaccessible except by putting in a canoe or small boat and wending your way from Murray's Landing up the old river channel past obstacles of logs and branches. Your reward is a view of the Great Blue Heron rookery, which has been active for the past three years. CS saw about 20 nests with young this year. You should also see most of the woodpecker family, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Wood Pewee, Wood Duck, Barred Owl, Am. Kestrel, White-breasted Nuthatch, Prothonotary Warbler, Eastern Bluebird, Tree Swallow, and House Wren. A few gravel roads finger down to the edges of the area providing a possibility of some good birding.

12. **Centerville Reservoir** -- Located on the S.W. corner of Centerville, the upper and lower reservoirs make a very pleasant birding area, with hiking possible along the lake and into the timber. Killdeer and small sandpipers are sometimes seen on a small mud flat on the S.E. part of the lower reservoir. Red Crossbill were once seen in a small grove of pine. Northern Orioles like to nest here and a Belted Kingfisher or Green Heron is sometimes seen. Cedar Waxwings sometimes pass through.

13. **Sharon Bluffs State Park** -- This was built in the days of the WPA on a bluff high above the Chariton River three miles east and one mile south of Centerville. It is productive for songbirds finding.

14. **Greater Ottumwa Park** -- This park borders the Des Moines River and is newly developed with several ponds and lagoons, the latter having been part of the main channel of the river before it was rerouted. Migrating ducks, geese, shorebirds, gulls, terns, grebes and herons as well as many other species of birds may be found in season.

15. **Ottumwa Heights College Campus** -- The many trees and beautiful shrubbery make the campus of this fine institution located in the north part of Ottumwa a productive place for one who is interested in finding migrating warblers.

16. **Wildwood Park -- Hamilton Park -- Memorial Park** -- These parks, the first named being located in the south part of Ottumwa while the last two are situated in the north part, are all good birding places with many trees and shrubs. There is a small, well-kept pond in Memorial Park, and a drainage ditch runs through Wildwood Park. Hamilton Park is unimproved with no streets or sidewalks but many species of birds have been seen there and on one occasion twenty-one species of warblers were observed by us in one hour.

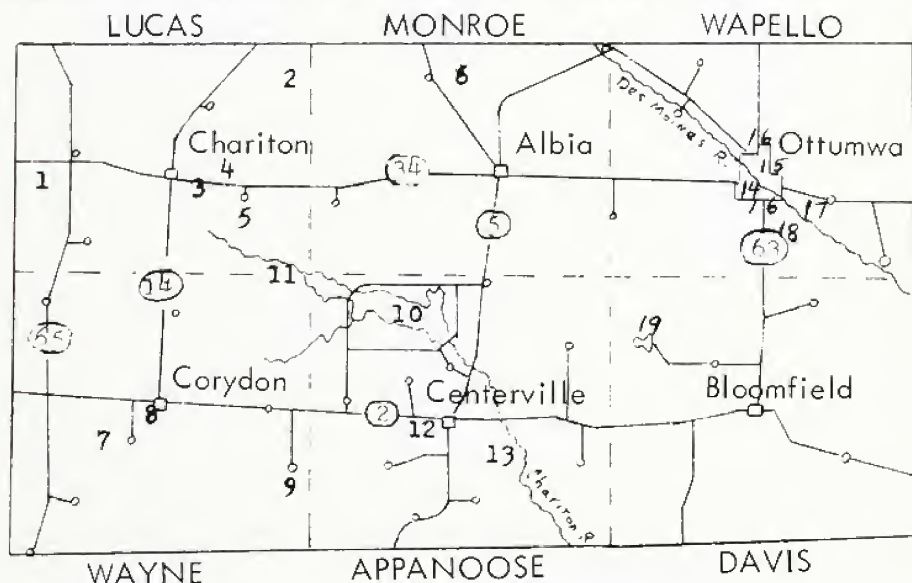
17. **YMCA Camp Arrowhead** -- About four miles east of Ottumwa on Highway 34 at a sign indicating Camp Arrowhead turn south and follow the gravel road to the camp a distance of about three miles. Heavy woods, plenty of bushes, brushy ravines, level grassy areas, and a fifteen acre lake all go to make up this campground. Birdlife is plentiful with some one hundred and twenty-five species having been identified and nearly that many banded by us. There are summer records of the White-eyed Vireo, Kentucky, Blue-winged, and Hooded Warblers, and nesting records of the Scarlet and Summer Tanagers, Worm-eating Warbler and Chuck-will's-widow, all of which were banded by us. Two Pileated Woodpeckers were also seen flying low over the area on one occasion.

18. **Forest Lake Baptist Camp** -- About five miles south of Ottumwa on Highway 63 a sign indicates a turn to the east to reach this camp. Follow the gravel road for several miles bearing to the left at a fork in the road. Shortly after making this turn you will see the entrance to the camp on the left. This is a private camp and permission to enter the premises should be first obtained at the office. This area has produced for us records during the summer of the White-eyed Vireo, Ovenbird, Kentucky, Chestnut-sided, Blue-winged, Worm-eating and Nashville Warblers, Blue Grosbeak and Chuck-will's-widow, the nest of the latter bird also being discovered. We also caught a Clark's Nutcracker here in October of 1972. All of these birds were banded by us. The area is heavily wooded and there is an abundance of undergrowth that furnishes both food and shelter for birdlife. An eight and a half acre lake set among the hills adds to the beauty of the camp.

19. **Davis County -- Lake Wapello State Park** -- The southern edge of Davis County borders on the State of Missouri. With rolling hills and wooded ravines combined with the farmland under cultivation this county offers great possibilities for good birding. Mockingbirds, Upland Sandpipers, Orchard Orioles and

Grasshopper Sparrows are to be found with roadside birding as well as many other species of birds.

However in the northwestern part of the county is the best know area for bird-watching. Lake Wapello State Park comprising eleven hundred and forty-three acres and a lake with a water area of two hundred eighty-seven acres has all of the requisites for a varied birdlife and records show that in spring and fall when the waterfowl are migrating this is particularly true. But aside from the waterfowl one can find gulls, terns, White pelicans, owls, hawks, grebes, cuckoos, woodpeckers, and many other species of birds including the warblers. Bald Eagles have been seen in the area and Long-eared and Saw-whet Owls may be found in the conifers. The use of a boat comes in handy in the quest for some of the birdlife.



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|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Stephens Forest | 11. Wildlife Refuge |
| 2. Chariton State Forest Reserve | 12. Centerville Reservoir |
| 3. Red Haw State Park | 13. Sharon Bluffs State Park |
| 4. Lake Ellis and Lake Morris | 14. Greater Ottumwa Park |
| 5. Colyn Area | 15. Ottumwa Heights College Campus |
| 6. Miami Lake | 16. Wildwood Park -- Hamilton Park --
Memorial Park |
| 7. Bob White State Park | 17. YMCA Camp Arrowhead |
| 8. Corydon Reservoir | 18. Forest Lake Baptist Camp |
| 9. Seymour Reservoir | 19. Lake Wapello State Park |
| 10. Rathbun Lake | |

Specials in our 1974 Banding Activity

HAZEL AND FITZHUGH DIGGS
HAMBURG, IOWA

Even though we banded 961 birds of 71 species in Nebraska, bringing our total up to 3,568 birds for 1974 and getting 7 Belted Kingfishers, 3 Great Horned Owls, 2 Red Crossbills (in July) at Fontenelle Forest, 326 American Goldfinch and 2

Solitary Sandpipers in Lincoln, our specials were taken here at home and in Iowa.

At dawn on April 27 we netted a bird of the goatsucker family. Since Fitzhugh had to go to Carson, Iowa, for repairs for our machinery, we had little time to study the bird. We called our friends in Lincoln, Mabel and John Ott, to meet us at the Embers parking lot in Nebraska City. First, we had to make sure it wasn't a Whip-poor-will as we had netted them before but never a Poor-will. We read all our books, studied the pictures, the bird's feather markings, measured him, etc. If it were a Whip-poor-will it would have had to have been a female, but female Whip-poor-wills have buffy throat bands but no white on the tail. The white on the tail of this bird was quite limited and the bird measured $7\frac{1}{4}$ " in length, much shorter than the Whip-poor-wills we had previously banded. It also had fewer and shorter whiskers than the Whip-poor-wills. The Poor-will generally hunts close to the ground, so this may account for him being very low in the net. The **Audubon Water Bird Guide** by Richard H. Pough and the National Geographic Society - **Water, Prey and Game Birds of North America** both say they breed from west or S. W. Iowa, E. Kansas and C. Texas west to the Pacific. One was banded by Dr. Esther Bennett, City Naturalist, in Lincoln October 9th.

May 1, 1974, we netted a MacGillivray's Warbler. After we had identified it, banded it and taken pictures, we called Genevieve DeLong at Lamoni. We knew she had banded MacGillivray's in Colorado. We described it a bluish gray hood much like the Mourning Warbler (with which we were familiar) and it had a broken eye-ring. Then, when asked what she thought we had, she replied, "It sounds to me like you have a MacGillivray's Warbler". We told her that was how we had identified it but wanted her opinion.

On our way home from Bellevue, Neb. August 22 where we netted a Ringed Turtle Dove, we saw shorebirds and many swallows enjoying a miniature peninsula in one of the lakes along I-29 near the Pacific Junction exit. The next evening we went up to make a survey of the area and decided to see what we could band on Saturday. Being there at daybreak we soon netted 2 Spotted Sandpipers, 7 Least Sandpipers, and 2 Semipalmated Sandpipers, all the while studying other shorebirds and wishing them into the nets. We finally got the Semipalmated Plover. He was a very impressive bird with his dark back and white collar. His bill was orange and black and his legs were orange. The Otts of Lincoln, Ruth Green of Bellevue and Rose Anderson of Omaha, all good birders, were banding with us. Before leaving in the evening we netted a Lesser Yellowlegs. Our problem seemed to be what to do with his long legs when we photographed him. Another first for us. The swallows weren't nearly as numerous as the evening before when they had swarms of gnats to feed on. When they weren't sitting on the leaders of the nets chattering among themselves, a few kept flying about so we banded Bank, Barn, Cliff and Rough-winged Swallows and a Purple Martin. During the fall migration October 25, we netted a Cape May Warbler, another very nice first for us.

The surprise of surprises came when we found an American Woodcock in a net early the morning of October 25. He was caught in the lowest trough of the mist net and bouncing on the ground. The woodcock's predominant diet is earthworms. Since we had just had an inch of slow, pattering rain, he must have found in this shaded area a wealth of earthworms to feed on. By means of their highly specialized bills they can extract worms up to a depth of 3", using the flexible outer end of the upper mandible when the beak is inserted full length in the ground. By touching his beak gently we had a first hand performance of this act. He curved the upper mandible up much as if he were laughing at us. It was afternetting him we understood what was making the holes in the ground in this area.

A line about the Carolina Chickadees. We have felt for several years we were getting Carolina Chickadees in this area but not being too familiar with them and no one else seeing them, we let them go as Black-capped Chickadees. After making several banding trips to central Missouri, banding and studying them, were we sure. The first thing you notice is the small size when you get them in your hands. July 16, the Otts and we were banding in Fontenelle Forest when we had 2. We had 10 Black-caps the same day, enough for a fair comparison. We really studied these birds. The others were netted here at home.

Bird casualties at Alleman, Ia. TV tower

DARWIN (DEAN) MOSMAN
ANKENY, IOWA

This study of bird casualties began in the fall of 1973. The work is still continuing but an addition was made of a second tower, one half mile west of the present tower, so subsequent work will include both towers. I wish to thank Karen Miller and Richard Crawford of I.S.U., for their cooperation (where the salvaged birds were taken). I would also like to acknowledge previous work done at the tower by Jim Rod, formerly of I.S.U., not yet published. Last but not least the understanding of my wife, who also helped with the pickup of birds at the tower.

In late 1971, a 2,000 foot TV tower was built at Alleman, Iowa. This report covers the period from August 24, 1973, through November 4, 1974. During this period the tower was checked whenever I felt there could have been a kill. Most of the time this would be during low overcast nights with falling barometer. But this is not always true. On September 13, 1974, there were 496 killed and the towers visibility was excellent. But on the previous night there was a low overcast sky and there were 1,072 killed. A major portion of the kill has come on two consecutive nights, during each migration period. On October 1, 1973, 999 were killed and on October 2 there were 336. Due to some heavy ground cover I would guess that at least 10 percent of the 1973 kill was not found. In the Spring of 1974 the two largest kills came on May 17 with 92 and May 22 with 110.

After 2 years of study, I believe that very few of the birds are killed by hitting the guy wires. The reason I believe this is that very few kills are found over 200 feet from the base of the tower. During the fall migration 90 percent of the birds are found south and west of the tower, which may indicate that the fall migration is the southwest.

The following are a few observations of interest that I have made in the past two years. Three species make up a high percent of the kill. They are the Tennessee Warbler, Ovenbird, and Red-eyed Vireo. The Tennessee Warbler is no surprise, but the size of the kill of the other two species is interesting, with Ovenbirds at over 13 percent of the total kill and Red-eyed Vireos over 20 percent, with 516 killed on night of September 12, 1974. The surprising low kill of Yellow-rumped Warblers is hard to explain. On September 28, 1973, I arrived at the tower before sunrise. There was a very low overcast and there was about 300 feet of the tower visible. There were many birds circling the tower and calling. This continued until daybreak, when the birds left. This was the only time that I arrived at the tower before daybreak. I have no way of knowing if this happens whenever there is poor visibility of the tower at night. But it seemed to me that something was attracting the birds. It could be the lights or even the TV transmitter signals. But whatever it is, it may be the reason why there are such large kills at these TV towers.

SPECIES KILLED AT ALLEMAN TV TOWER

Species	Fall 1973	Spring 1974	Fall 1974	Total	% of Kill
Pied-billed Grebe	1	0	0	1	.02
Virginia Rail	2	0	2	4	.11
Sora	16	0	6	22	.62
Yellow Rail	1	0	0	1	.02
American Coot	1	0	0	1	.02
Common Snipe	0	0	1	1	.02
Mourning Dove	3	0	1	4	.11
Black-billed Cuckoo	0	0	1	1	.02
Common Flicker	3	0	0	3	.08
Red-headed Woodpecker	2	0	0	2	.05
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	5	0	2	7	.19
Great Crested Flycatcher	0	0	4	4	.11
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	3	0	3	6	.17
Willow Flycatcher	6	0	12	18	.51
Least Flycatcher	3	0	4	7	.19
Brown Creeper	2	1	3	6	.17
House Wren	15	6	9	30	.85
Long-billed Marsh Wren	19	1	1	21	.59
Short-billed Marsh Wren	14	0	2	16	.45
Gray Catbird	37	5	20	62	1.76
Brown Thrasher	3	0	0	3	.08
Wood Thrush	12	0	2	14	.39
Swainson's Thrush	44	0	42	86	2.44
Gray-cheeked Thrush	6	1	27	34	.96
Veery	0	0	10	10	.28
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	0	1	3	.08
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	23	0	3	26	.73
Yellow-throated Vireo	4	1	1	6	.17
Solitary Vireo	21	2	12	35	.99
Red-eyed Vireo	71	47	606	724	20.56
Philadelphia Vireo	23	2	6	31	.88
Warbling Vireo	1	2	2	5	.14
Black-and-white Warbler	46	0	73	119	3.37
Golden-winged Warbler	2	1	7	10	.28
Tennessee Warbler	164	79	118	361	10.25
Orange-crowned Warbler	27	0	3	30	.85
Nashville Warbler	312	5	24	341	9.68
Northern Parula	2	1	0	3	.08
Yellow Warbler	6	1	31	38	1.07
Magnolia Warbler	27	1	5	33	.93
Cape May Warbler	1	0	0	1	.02
Yellow-rumped Warbler	4	2	0	6	.17
Black-throated Green Warbler	19	1	10	30	.85
Blackburnian Warbler	1	6	25	32	.90
Chestnut-sided Warbler	31	0	65	96	2.72
Bay-breasted Warbler	113	1	31	145	4.11
Blackpoll Warbler	0	18	2	20	.56
Pine Warbler	6	1	0	7	.19

Palm Warbler	2	0	0	2	.05
Ovenbird	264	1	203	468	13.29
Northern Waterthrush	7	0	33	40	1.13
Kentucky Warbler	0	2	0	2	.05
Connecticut Warbler	2	0	0	2	.05
Mourning Warbler	20	2	45	67	1.90
Common Yellowthroat	100	5	44	149	4.23
Wilson's Warbler	14	1	23	38	1.07
Canada Warbler	2	0	25	27	.76
American Redstart	25	2	8	35	.99
Bobolink	5	1	54	60	1.70
Northern Oriole	0	1	29	30	.85
Scarlet Tanager	8	0	1	9	.25
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	11	1	17	29	.82
Indigo Bunting	20	1	0	21	.59
Dickcissel	12	2	3	17	.48
Savannah Sparrow	10	1	0	11	.31
Grasshopper Sparrow	5	4	0	9	.25
LeConte's Sparrow	1	0	0	1	.02
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	1	0	0	1	.02
Dark-eyed Junco	0	2	0	2	.05
Tree Sparrow	0	0	4	4	.11
Clay-colored Sparrow	3	0	3	3	.08
White-crowned Sparrow	1	0	1	1	.02
White-throated Sparrow	2	0	3	3	.08
Fox Sparrow	1	1	2	2	.05
Lincoln's Sparrow	12	0	13	13	.36
Swamp Sparrow	9	0	9	9	.25
Total	1641	212	3521	3521	100 %

A Four-year Summary of Unusual Iowa Bird Records

RICHARD D. CRAWFORD
Department of Animal Ecology
Iowa State University
AMES

The following is a list of rare or unusual birds seen by me which have merit and should be recorded. All observations were made during 1972-1975. All references to Brown refer to Brown, 1971.

ANNOTATED LIST Common Loon (*Gavia immer*)

One sub-adult was seen on Mud Lake, Clay Co. from 30-31 May 1973. Three other sub-adults have been seen in this area in July and August by Weller (1961).

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

Two birds were seen counting on Rush Lake, Palo Alto Co. on 3 June 1973. Nest searches were made later but no nests were found.

Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*)

One individual was seen repeatedly on Dan Green Slough, Clay Co. from 28 May - 30 July 1974. Brown reported on two other non-breeding birds which remained most of the summer in northern Iowa.

Whistling Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*)

Two individuals seen on Dan Green Slough, Clay Co. on 15 May 1974.

Lesser Snow Goose (*Anser caerulescens*)

From 9-15 individuals of both color phases were seen almost daily on Dan Green Slough, Clay Co. from 10 May - 30 July 1974. No nests were found and no courtship was observed.

Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Ereunetes pusillus*)

One individual was seen on Dan Green Slough, Clay Co. from 2-8 July 1972. Brown reports spring dates of 6 April - 3 June and fall dates of 11 July - 3 October.

Boreal Chickadee (*Parus hudsonicus*)

One individual was seen with a flock of Black-capped Chickadees in College Forest, Ames, Story Co. on 17 and 18 March 1972. Brown reports one individual of this species at a bird feeder in Dubuque in 1966. A check of the literature in nearby states suggests that this is probably the furthest southwest in the United States that this bird has been reported.

Worm-eating Warbler (*Helminthos vermivorus*)

On individual was seen in Brookside Park, Ames, Story Co. on 13 May 1973.

Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*)

Two males were seen at McFarland Park, Story Co. on 13 May 1974.

Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*)

One female was seen in Brookside Park, Ames, Story Co. on 12 May 1972, and one male was found at McFarland Park, Story Co. on 13 May 1974.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammospiza caudacuta*)

Approximately 30 individuals were seen at Hendrickson's Marsh, Story Co. on 25 October 1972.

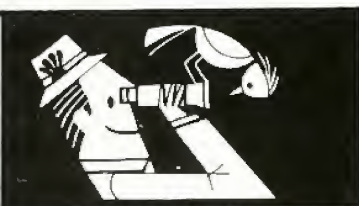
All of the above are sight records only. No specimens were collected. Further information on any of the above observations may be obtained by writing to the author.

LITERATURE CITED

- Brown, W. H. 1971. An annotated list of the birds of Iowa. *Iowa State Journal of Science* 45:387-469.
Weller, M. W. 1961. Cattle egret and other uncommon Iowa water birds. *Iowa Bird Life* 31:44-45.

PRESENT ADDRESS OF AUTHOR: Department of Biology, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks 58201.

FIELD REPORTS



June in Des Moines was a warm and wet month with six inches of rain, the last on the 25th, but July had only .04 inch all month. Dry weather lasted for exactly two months when rains, starting with six inches on the 25th, totaled ten inches during the last week. August was somewhat warmer than usual and the first three weeks of September had about normal temperature and precipitation.

Pelicans, Cormorants. A large flock of White Pelicans was seen at Spirit Lake in June (LW). No Cormorants were observed (NH).

Hérons. At Lake Rathbun there were 24 Great Blue nests, some with young (CS). They were rather common at Coralville with 40 seen in one day (MN fide NH). There was no nesting at Red Rock, but 25 were present in late August (GB). They were abundant at Riverton with more than 100 on 5 September (RP,JB). At the same time there were 12 Great Egrets present. On 6 June a flock of 15 Cattle Egrets at Chichaqua S.P. was photographed by Jim Layton (DM). Immature Black-crowned Night Herons were frequently seen at Chichaqua, and there were 5 near Runnells in late August and early September (GB). Yellow-crowned were sighted on numerous occasions at Red Haw S.P. (GC), and immature was sighted on 15 September (DM).

Geese, Ducks. Several nestings of Canadas in the Spirit Lake area were noticed with one photographed (HD,LW). Three spent the summer on Davis Lake near Pleasantville with a flock of pinioned Giants (GB). A "few" Snows were seen on 11 July (RP). There was a remarkable shortage of Mallards (NH), and only 150 local adults and young by August (GB). Two Black Ducks on 8 July were unusual (NH). Some early Green-wings were 25 on 27 August (NH) and 1 at Riverton on 5 September (RP). Blue-wings were fewer (NH), but there were 4,000 by 1 September in Red Reck Refuge and the Runnells area (GB). Several broods of Shovelers were seen on Rathbun (CS), and a male spent the summer at Davis Lake (GB). All were agreed on the abundance of Wood Ducks. A single Canvasback was seen at Union Slough on 6 July (HD).

Hawks. Turkey Vultures were more than usual (RP), a dozen at Rathbun on 12 June (CS), and three flocks at Red Rock, one in a new roost (GB). Accipiters seemed scarce: Sharp-shinned netted on 5 and 8 September (PP), and a Cooper's seen 18 September (DM). Red-tailed appear to be going the way of the Red-shouldered and are very scarce; the only good report was of 2 young in each of two nests (GB). Two reports of Red-shouldered: 22 May (LS), and early July between New Albin and Lansing (GB). Broad-winged were seen in early summer in Des Moines, 2 in Yellow River Forest in June (DK), and 1 on 7 September (NH). The only Bald Eagle was seen on 5 September at Riverton (JB,RP). An Osprey on 17 August was rather early (NH). On 21 August 2 Merlins were seen (IG). Kestrels were scarce: only 2 nests found (DM), 2 broods at Davenport (PP), but a flock of 8 was sighted on 5 September (MS).

Grouse, Pheasants, Partridge, Turkey. A Sharp-tailed Grouse was seen near Hamburg on 14 June (IG). Pheasants were few (LW), but thought to have done well (PP). Large coveys of partridge are reported (LW). Turkeys were heard in July in Yellow River Forest (GB), and two were seen on 9 August (IG).

Rails, Shorebirds. Conflicting reports were due to habitat conditions; water and mudflats were either scarce or abundant depending upon local conditions. Good numbers were seen (LW,NH), but very few (RP) and scarce in Des Moines. There was a movement early in August but none later due to high water (PP). Early in September there were 25 Soras (GB). Coots were numerous early, but few remained to nest. Semipalmated Plovers were seen in small numbers since the last of August (NH). Piping Plovers again failed to nest at DeSoto Bend (EL), but one was seen on 2 August (fide NH). Few mentioned seeing Golden Plovers. A Ruddy Turnstone also was seen on 2 August (Kents fide NH). At least 4 American Woodcock were in Yellow River Forest in June (DK), nest near Iowa City (Kents) and probably at Davenport (PP). Snipe seemed scarce or missing. Upland Sandpipers were seen in two locations in June (DK), but only one was seen on 9 August (NH). Remarkable numbers of Willets were seen, 20 on 2 August, and more than 100 on the ninth (NH). Long-billed Dowitchers were seen very early on 8 July and on 2 August (NH). Stilt Sandpipers were rather common on 11 July and a flock of 30 on 31 August (NH). As many as 7 Western Sandpipers were seen since 30 August (NH). Four Buff-breasted Sandpipers were present on 2 August, as was a Marbled Godwit and 10 Sanderlings (NH). A total of 4 Northern Phalaropes was seen at Coralville and Conesville (NH).

Gulls, Terns. Only a single Ring-billed Gull by 9 August (NH), and 20 on 30 August (GB). Numbers of Franklin's and Bonaparte's Gulls are reported (LW). Least Terns again failed to nest at DeSoto Bend (EL). The only Caspian Terns were one at Jester S.P. on 15 September (MB), and two at Credit Island 21 September (PP). Black Terns were thought numerous (LW,NH).

Cuckoos, Owls. Both Cuckoos were thought late, but the Yellow-billed were numerous (NH) although generally scarce (GB). There were two pairs of Black-billed at Red Rock Dam (GB). No Screech Owls responded to taped calls (NH), but a Short-eared on 9 August was very early.

Goatsuckers, Swifts, Hummingbirds. A Whip-poor-will appeared in the Harold Peasleys' yard on 6 June. Several pairs were on the north and south sites of the Lake, but no others were found (GB). A flock of 200 Nighthawks on 29 August, and several smaller flocks later were seen (RP). Swifts were few (GB). From 25 to 50 hummingbirds were feeding in a garden of gladioli in West Des Moines on 3 September (MB). Trumpet vines at four Newton homes attracted these also (HD).

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers. A mulberry tree in Waverly had 4 Pileated on 2 August (fide PK). Red-bellied appear to be fewer in Polk Co. A nest and young of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was found at Effigy Mounds on 20 June, and 2 others were seen in Yellow River Forest on 18 June (DK). One this summer was a "first" (LW). Remarkable numbers of E. Kingbirds were seen 30 August and the following week (NH). There were two successful W. Kingbird nests in Polk Co.; one for the third consecutive year on the same utility pole in the park in Ankeny (DM), and another, also on a utility pole, in West Des Moines (HB). A few were seen in Western Iowa (RP). Great Crested were numerous on 30 August in Manti Park (RP). No Phoebe has been seen for two years (GDeL), but all 3 Empidonax were numerous this fall. Acadian Flycatchers were common in suitable habitat with more than 15 in Yellow River Forest (DK). An Alder Flycatcher was singing and seen on 24 May west of Iowa City, and 2 others were in Hickory Hill Park into June (Mike Newlon fide NH). A Traill's was at Alburnett on 6 May (LS), and another in the Iowa City area was apparently a Willow (NH). It will be interesting to learn the distribution in Iowa of the Alder and Willow Flycatchers. There were 3 Least in Yellow River Forest and 1 at McGregor in June (DK). Eastern Wood Pewees have been more numerous than in the past two years (RP). Olive-sided have been easy to find since 17 August (NH).

Horned Larks, Swallows. Horned Larks were up (LW). There were many nesting Barn Swallows, and they were abundant in August (MS). More than 100 Cliff Swallows nested on the dam (GB). It appears to have been a good year for Purple Martins, some having houses occupied for the first time (PK,FR,DM).

Nuthatches, Wrens. A very early Red-breasted Nuthatch arrived on 12 August (LuW). Petersen first netted them early in September. On 19 June, a nest was built by a Winter Wren in Yellow River Forest, but the nest was unused. One was singing near the nest site on 22 and 27 June (DK). One was seen on 13 June, and one was heard on 11 July (PK). A Carolina Wren was in the yard on 15 August (HP), and 2 were in Fred Kent's yard on 1 September. Long-billed Marsh Wrens seemed more numerous with at least three nest sites (DM).

Mimics, Thrushes. There was a Mockingbird at Chichaqua on 12 August (DM), two pairs were seen and one nest located, but later destroyed (GB). One was in the yard on 13 August (MS). The Curve-billed Thrasher rescued by Loraine Wallace is described in a longer note. Flocking Robins the first week in August totaled from 75 to 100 (MS). On 30 June 2 Veerys were heard at Ledges S.P. (DM). All but one thought Bluebirds scarce, but this was the best in the last three years with 17 young (DM).

Gnatcatchers, Kinglets, Waxwings, Shrikes. More Blue-gray Gnatcatchers than usual: nest found 31 May in Yellow River Forest (DK), 2 seen on 2 July at Springbrook (GB), numerous at Waubonsie on 11 July (RP), one in their yard on 26 August (HP), and a late bird at Pine Hill Cemetery 21 September (PP). Petersen's first Ruby-crowned Kinglet was on 8 September. There were many Cedar Waxwings on 23 August at Lake Three Fires (GdeL), and flocks as large as 50 in mid-August (NH). Loggerhead Shrikes had three successful nests with 5 pairs seen (GB).

Vireos, Warblers. Bell's Vireos nested at Chichaqua (DM), and were heard on territory in Des Moines. They were common at Manti Park (RP), but none was seen until 13 August (NH). Red-eyed were again scarce in Polk Co., but there were unusually large numbers (GdeL). Philadelphias seemed not uncommon with several reports. Warbling were few in Des Moines. The dates of the best warbler waves were 28 August 4, 5, and 8 September (PP), 5 September (GdeL), and 7 to 10 September (NH). Migration was thought poor (RP). Several Prothonotaries were heard with one evidently feeding young on 2 June (MB,MEW), and one was seen in the same area on 22 July (SS). Three pairs with one feeding young were seen 12 June at Rathbun (CS). Blue-winged were common in suitable habitat with 16 plus in Yellow River Forest (DK). The number of Tennessees banded this fall was the greatest ever (GdeL). Only one Yellow Warbler nesting territory was found (GB). Black-throated Blue, 5 banded and one seen (PP). At least 8 Ceruleans and a nest with young were found in Yellow River Forest (DK). Two Pine Warblers were seen on 9 September (NH). An early Palm Warbler appeared on 8 September (PP). Louisiana Waterthrushes were feeding young in Yellow River Forest on 19 June, and other pairs were seen there and at Pike's Peak (DK). A nest with 3 young Kentucky Warblers was found at Effigy Mounds on 18 June, and they were common in suitable habitat with 18 plus in Yellow River Forest (DK). A Connecticut was banded on 5 September (GdeL), and another on 16 September (PP). The only Chat was one in Yellow River Forest on 27 June (DK). None was seen all summer (GB). An early Canada was found on 15 August (GdeL). Of a total of 33 Canadas banded, 13 were on 28 August (PP). Redstarts were numerous (DK).

Icterids, Tanagers, Finches. There has been a great increase in numbers of Bobolinks (LW) and there appeared more in Polk Co. A late observation was of 4-5 on 30-31 August (NH). None nested on the south side of the Refuge as usual (GB).

Yellow-headed Blackbirds had a good year (LW), and again nested in the Ankeny area. There were probable nestings near Hiawatha (LS) and in a small slough in S. Iowa C. (NH). Orchard Orioles were hard to find but apparently one nesting pair (NH), only pair seen (GB), very few seen (RP) and none in Des Moines. A pair and many single Summer Tangers were seen in a 7-mile stretch on 19 August (IG), observed on 11 July at Waubonsie (RP), but failed to appear in Des Moines. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks appeared to have had a good year, but only 1 Blue Grosbeak was seen (RP). Indigo Buntings were numerous and there was a high population of Dickcissels (GB). The Lazuli Bunting was seen on 14 June near Sioux Center (RM). There were more Goldfinches (LW). Thistle-seed feeders continued to attract them all through the nesting season (HP, LuW). There has been a great increase in Lark Buntings (LW) and it was seen in mid June (IG). The Savannah Sparrow has increased in the past few years (PP), and some observations during the summer suggest nesting (MEW). Henslow's Sparrows were seen and heard singing on 24 May (NH), while 4 were seen on Hayden Prairie on 14 June (DK). Lark Sparrows have been the most numerous in years (IG). Chipping Sparrows were numerous with 4 nests and 27 banded in the yard (MS). Field Sparrows were scarce in Polk Co., due possibly to lack of suitable habitat.

Contributors: Harry Beardsley, Des Moines; Gladys Black, Pleasantville, Red Rock; Jean Broley, Shenandoah; Gene Burns, Jamaica; Margaret Brooke, Des Moines; Gaylan Crim, Chariton; Genevieve DeLong, Lamoni; Herb Dorow, Newton; Dr. Nick Halmi, Iowa City; Darwin Koenig, Decorah; Pearl Knopp, Marble Rock; Ione Getscher, Hamburg; Edw. W. Loth, DeSoto NWR; Dick Mooney, Des Moines; Dean Mosman, Ankeny; Ron Muilenburg, Webster City; Mike Newlon, Iowa City; Helen Peasley, Des Moines; Peter C. Petersen, Davenport; Ruth Phipps, Shenandoah; Carl Priebe, Red Rock Ref.; Mrs. Frank Rice, Fontanelle; Charlotte Scott, Seymour; Lillian Serbousek, Cedar Rapids; Marie Spears, Shenandoah; Steve Stewart, Des Moines; Loraine Wallace, Spirit Lake; Lurene Warters, Des Moines; Mary Ellen Warters, Des Moines.

This will be the last report for some time from Darwin Koenig who has joined the army. His notes from northeast Iowa will be missed. The Field Reports usually appearing in the December issue will be printed in the March issue since December will be the 5-year index. The deadline for March is 20 February, but it is suggested you send in your notes by 1 December while you have the facts in mind. Winter season notes can then be sent in at a later date but prior to the deadline.

The many cards and notes received during my hospitalization are greatly appreciated and I regret my inability to acknowledge these individually. -- Woodward H. Brown, 432 Tonawanda Dr., Des Moines, 50312.

General Notes

The Blue List -- In the "The Blue List for 1973" (*Amer. Birds* 26:973), Robt. Arbib enumerated 42 species that were suffering population declines but were not then sufficiently rare to be considered endangered species. Although most of these are never found in Iowa, and some were becoming scarce only locally, the list included 10 species which have been well known in Iowa in the past but which should be carefully watched. These are: Black-crowned Night Heron, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, American Kestrel, Cooper's Hawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Red-shouldered Hawk, Loggerhead Shrike, Marsh Hawk, Bell's Vireo.

Based upon the observations in Polk Co. these should also be considered to clarify the state situation: Wood Thrush, American Redstart, Yellow Warbler, Rufous-sided Towhee.

It is suggested that all contributions to Field Reports mention each of the above (in the appropriate seasons); if none has been seen the fact should be stated. WOODWARD H. BROWN, 432 Tonawanda Dr., Des Moines.

Mountain Bluebird at Cedar Falls -- I am teaching a course in Field Zoology of the Vertebrates this semester, and we have recently started our study of birds. There are 14 students in the class. On April 10, 1975, at approximately 2:20 P.M. we observed a Mountain Bluebird just after crossing Snag Creek near the entrance to Black Hawk Park. This is a county park located at the northwest edge of Cedar Falls adjoining the Cedar River and is in the Cedar River floodplain.

All members of the class and myself had an excellent opportunity to observe this bird from all sides for a period estimated at five to ten minutes. Although we use Peterson's eastern **Field Guide to the Birds** as a text, one of the students had Robbins' book on North American Birds with him, so we were able to study the bird belly together with the deep blue color of the back and the size seemed to us to make identification unmistakable, even though it was the first occasion we had seen one. VIRGIL E. DOWELL, Biology Dept., U.N.I., Cedar Falls.

Curve-billed Thrasher at Spirit Lake -- On the 24th of June Dickinson County was visited by some unusual forces of nature. A large black cloud which enveloped the southwestern sky proved to be a strangling dust storm, which was followed by driving rain that struck the ground in stinging sheets. As if that weren't enough, we were pelted by hailstones that lay on the ground for an hour like a blanket of snow.

The following afternoon, some twenty-four hours after the storm, my daughters discovered a bird sitting quietly on the graveled right of way in front of our farm home. The bird was completely covered with mud and seemed to be bleeding from the eyes. It had a definite thrasher bill, but was far too muddy to further identify.

We filled a basin with tepid water and began the clean up process, starting with the bird's eyes. After washing away the mud with a piece of soft cotton, we realized what we had first thought to be blood, was nothing more than two bright red eyes, which were alert and certainly not blind, as we'd first feared. The bill, which was stuck tightly shut with mud, was cleaned and its mouth was also filled with mud. It had gobs of hardened mud clinging to its feet and we picked them gently off. All of this I might add, was not to the bird's liking, and I can testify to the fact that a thrasher's bill is razor sharp and a lethal weapon.

We washed the mud from its body and a long thrasher tail, shading from gray to black was revealed. The body was gray, shading to a darker gray with black-wingtips and it had a streaked breast. Certainly not the familiar Brown Thrasher with which we are familiar, so we unearthed the field guides.

We identified it as a Curve-billed Thrasher, for that is all it could have been. All the good field guides tell us that this bird is a native of the southwestern United States and is not migratory. What then was it doing completely off course, in north-west Iowa, suffering the aftermath of a hail and mud storm? This bird nests in mesquite bushes and cacti . . . what then was it doing in nesting season in a land of maple trees and honeysuckle bushes?

We learned from visiting with Gladys Black that we should have taken a photograph for identification confirmation, but only our family and a few neighbors saw it. We shall know better if and when there is a "next time."

After determining that it was not in any way injured we took it down to our

grove and released it, as the bird obviously was not enjoying its captivity. We hope we did the right thing, but it flew to the top of the nearest ash tree and then winged skyward and we have not seen it since.

Of one thing we are certain . . . discoveries such as this are what makes this business of bird watching such an interesting and exciting adventure. LORAIN WALLACE, Spirit Lake.

Population Changes in the Tufted Titmouse and Black-capped Chickadee -- It has been apparent for some time that Tufted Titmice have become fewer in and around Des Moines, but no effort has been made to determine the extent of the population change in the area or elsewhere in the state. The results of the Christmas Census reports in *Iowa Bird Life* have now been analyzed to learn what changes in frequency have occurred in various areas. There are few where these counts have been made in each of the past 20 years, and the study has been confined to five of these: Cedar Rapids, Davenport, Des Moines, Iowa City and Lamoni.

The usual approach is the determination of the numbers of birds found per party-hour in the field, but this information has not always been provided. Here the frequency is computed as the number of birds per party. Table I shows the frequency of Titmice for each of the four five-year periods in the past 20 years. All five stations show decreases from the '55-'59 period to the five years ending in 1974.

A parallel study of the Chickadee population was made and Table II shows the population changes corresponding to Table I. In contrast to Table I, two stations, Iowa City and Lamoni, had their highest frequencies in the latest five-year period. WOODWARD H. BROWN, 432 Tonanada Dr., Des Moines.

TABLE I

Station	Total Titmice	FREQUENCIES				Change
		55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	
C.R.	319	7.8	4.6	2.4	3.2	(-) 4.6
Dav.	1,949	6.9	2.9	5.1	3.9	(-) 3.0
D. M.	736	9.8	9.2	7.1	5.5	(-) 4.3
Ia. C.	287	8.5	4.8	4.9	3.5	(-) 5.0
Lamoni	180	4.6	2.5	2.1	2.6	(-) 2.0

TABLE II

Station	Total Chickadees	FREQUENCIES				Change
		55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	
C. R.	1,985	34.2	21.2	16.0	30.4	(-) 3.8
Dav.	4,861	13.2	10.2	12.7	10.7	(-) 2.5
D. M.	3,060	39.8	34.4	26.4	30.1	(-) 9.7
Ia. C.	1,129	20.2	12.2	22.8	24.7	+ 4.5
Lamoni	1,497	20.7	17.5	27.8	28.5	+ 7.8

Varied Thrush at Manchester -- I first noticed the Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) about the last of February, 1975. It was so strange, I could not find it in my bird books. It is still here and only last night, March 29, I discovered it in the *Field Guide to Birds of North America*. Here is the description (taken from my book *Song and Garden Birds of North America*, since I do not have the other book at hand). But it is surely the correct description.

"Characteristics: Gray-black head and back, rusty breast, black breastband, orange eye stripes and wing bars. Range: N. Alaska and N. W. Canada -- South to N. California and N. W. Montana; winters to N. Baja, California. In migration Varied Thrushes have been found far east of their normal range, usually in common with Robins. On rare occasions some have ventured as far as the East Coast."

This bird arrived here at least three weeks before any robins were seen. I saw him this morning (March 30) at 7:00 a.m. at the sunflower seeds. This is simply a matter of interest, and I appreciate sharing it with you. MRS. K. L. COLTMAN, 304 S. Wayne St., Manchester, Iowa.

A Visit to an Iowa Marsh -- In mid-June we were fortunate to make a trip to Mud Lake and the surrounding marshes as guests of Rich and Glinda Crawford. We arrived about three in the afternoon, daylight time, and after a short rest donned waders and went to explore Dewey's Pasture about half a mile north. Dewey's Pasture is a reclaimed marsh and is about half marsh and land and half dry prairie.

The first nest we saw was that of a Pied-billed Grebe. Here, as in most cases, we did not see the bird as she had heard our approach and slipped away among the rushes. However she had taken time to cover the eggs with a layer of damp reeds and grass. We photographed the nest as it was, then removed the debris and photographed it to show the eggs. During the next two hours we saw and photographed nests of Bobolink, Long and Short-billed Marsh Wrens, Blue-winged Teal, Mallard, Redhead, Swamp Sparrow, Yellowthroat, Coot and Red-winged Blackbird.



Nest of Pied-billed Grebe

Photo by authors

The next day we went farther north to a larger marsh where the water was also deeper and it was necessary to use a canoe most of the time and take pictures while sitting or kneeling in the canoe. Here the first nest was a Virginia Rail, then Ruddy Duck and several nests of Yellow-headed Blackbird and Black Tern. We were also able to get pictures of the male Yellow-heads as they perched on the wind blown cattails.

Evenings were spent sitting on the dock at Mud Lake where through a telescope we watched a family of Canada Geese feeding far across the lake. Also various ducks came out of the cattails to feed. Toward sunset two or three Black-crowned Night Herons came floating in on leisurely flapping wings to alight and feed in the shallow water, scarcely a hundred yards from us. The trip was very enjoyable even though we were a week or more later than we had intended. We hope to spend a week in a marsh earlier in the spring another year. -- ROY AND VIRGINIA OLIVER, Box 223, Mt. Pleasant.

Opportunistic Feeding by Swallows -- At 07:30 on 25 August 1975 we observed about 35 Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*), including both adults and juveniles, and at least 2 Cliff Swallows (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) foraging on the runway at the Mason City, Iowa, airport. Wind was blowing at 15-20 mph from the west, ambient temperature was 60 degrees F, and skies were nearly overcast. The birds would fly one to two feet above the ground, land and peck at something on the concrete in a single quick action, and then fly a few feet before stopping again. The swallows remained in a loose flock as they foraged, the radius of the flock not exceeding about 50 yards as the birds moved along the surface of the runway. Thus the foraging behavior of the birds appeared to be socially facilitated. A 5-minute search revealed a number of small arthropods crawling on the concrete: 2 leafhoppers (Homoptera), 3 crickets (Orthoptera), 3 ants (Hymenoptera), 4 ladybirds and 1 spotted cucumber beetle (Coleoptera), a small moth (Lepidoptera), and a harvestman and a spider (Arachnida). These arthropods may have been blown onto the concrete from the adjacent mowed fields, or possibly washed onto the runway during heavy rain the night before.

Ground foraging by swallows is rare, and probably occurs either when insects on the ground are unusually abundant or conspicuous, or when bad weather has decimated flying insects. Bent (1942, *Life Histories of North American Flycatchers, Larks, Swallows, and Their Allies*, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 179, pp. 450-451) notes that Barn Swallows occasionally pick insects from the ground while following the plow; he also lists among the Barn Swallow's prey small numbers of animals such as grasshoppers, crickets, spiders, and snails, which are suggestive of ground foraging. Both Barn Swallows and Cliff Swallows regularly perch on the ground to obtain mud for nest-building (Samuel 1971, *Wilson Bull.* 83:284-301), so perhaps they are less averse than other swallows to feeding on the ground. JEROME A. JACKSON AND WAYNE C. WEBER, Department of Zoology, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Mississippi.

Book Reviews

A Field Guide to Bird's Nests in the United States East of the Mississippi River -- Hal H. Harrison -- Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston -- 257 p., 222 color photographs, 6 black-and-white photographs, many line drawings, one map -- 1975 -- \$8.95.

The latest addition to the Peterson Field Guide Series, this book describes the nests and eggs of 285 species of eastern birds. The color photographs illustrate the nests and eggs of most of the species covered and the text details the breeding range, habitat, nest description and location, eggs and notes on special habits or considerations. The small line drawings illustrate the birds and general egg markings and shapes. The book is laid out generally in A. O. U. check list order with the hawks being quite disorganized. While the book covers areas east of the Mississippi River there are few Iowa breeding birds that are not included and these are rare breeders in the western part of the state. It is to be hoped that a western sequel will eventually appear. Drawing the line at the Mississippi is a bit unusual since the bird identification guides and records in this series cut off at the one hundredth meridian, a somewhat more logical place. It is a well written book and should prove very helpful in the identification of nests and eggs. ed.

The Birds of the Seychelles and the Outlying Islands -- Malcolm Penny -- Taplinger Publishing Co., New York -- 160 p., 8 color plates, 4 black-and-white plates, one map, many line drawings -- 1974 -- \$11.95.

The third guide in the latest Taplinger series, this one deals with one of the last

island groups to be carefully studied by ornithologists. Due to habitat destruction some of the birds of the Seychelles are among the rarest in the world. Penny presents a detailed introduction for a field guide, covering the habitats, ecological importance, ornithological history and evolutionary tendencies. The species accounts deal with land birds, breeding shore birds and sea birds covering the usual data without headings being used. The land and shore birds are illustrated in color, the sea birds in black-and-white by Chloe Talbot Kelly. The migrant and vagrant birds are listed in appendices along with a select bibliography in chronological order. The 101 breeding species are covered in detail and the chief field marks are repeated opposite the plates. This guide and the whole series is very well produced and it is to be hoped the series will be expanded. ed.

The Naturalist in Majorca -- James D. Parrock -- David and Charles, North Pomfret, Vt. -- 224 p., many black-and-white photographs and line drawings -- 1973 -- \$12.50.

This volume is one of a series which introduces visitors and residents to the wildlife of the region covered. The ecological segments are defined and the communities are discussed. The general distribution of plants and animals is described as well as special problems and features. Local organizations which can aid naturalists with special interests are listed. The series is unlike anything generally available for U. S. areas and would be worth emulating. Other areas covered, all very small geographically, include Central Southern England, Devon and Cornwall, Isle of Man, Wales and Lakeland.

Majorca is a favorite tour spot for Americans and lies off the east shore of Spain. An area of magnificent scenery, the island measures about 56 by 40 miles. Ornithologically it is excellent during spring migration for concentrations of up to twelve species of predators; observing pelagics from land and has some very restricted species. Any Americans planning to visit this spot on a tour or on their own will want this well done natural history guide with them. ed.

A Field Guide to the Birds of Galapagos -- Michael Harris -- Taplinger Publishing Co., New York -- 160 p., four color plates, 8 black-and-white plates, several maps, many line drawing -- 1975 -- \$10.95.

This guide, well illustrated by Barry Kent MacKay, is very complete for a field guide. The introductory sections present a check list of birds, history of ornithology, climate, zonation of plants and birds, numbers of landbirds, plants and altitude, breeding seasons, ecology, changes in avifauna and conservation, migrants and a brief birder's guide. The species accounts feature local names, identification points, voice, flight characteristics, food, breeding habits, distribution and sometimes range maps. All the endemics are illustrated, some for the first time. This is a small guide, easily packed for air travel and would certainly be indispensable for birding on the Galapagos. ed.

The Birds of the Bahamas -- P. G. C. Brudenell-Bruce -- Taplinger Publishing Co., New York -- 142 p., 4 color plates, 9 black-and-white plates, two maps -- 1975 -- \$10.95.

This guide deals with an area very close to the U. S. The closest Bahama Islands lie just sixty miles east of Miami. As would be expected, many U. S. species are winter residents on the islands. The color plates by Hermann Heinzel illustrate the non-U. S. forms and are both well executed and cleanly reproduces. Reference is made to plate numbers in Peterson's **Field Guide to the Birds** and all Bahaman birds not found in Peterson are illustrated. Of the 31 species rendered in color 23 are not in color in Bond's book (1971) and several duplicated show a different race. The species accounts include local names, status, description, voice

and nest information if known. The introduction provides a description of the islands and their climate with most of the emphasis on Nassau and New Providence Island. Accidentals are listed in an appendix and another gives singing periods for nine species. This is a well done guide and would certainly be indispensable on the Bahamas. It is a big improvement over Patterson's book (I. B. L. Vol. 43 p. 112). ed.

All Heaven In A Rage -- T. P. Inskipp -- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Sandy, Bedfordshire, U. K. -- 42 p., many photographs, maps and tables -- 1975 -- 85 p. -- (about \$2.00) -- paperbound (price includes postage and packing).

This booklet is the result of a two year study by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds into the importation of birds into the U. K. The situation is probably worse in the U. S. At least five million birds are moved from one country to another with a very high mortality rate. In addition 50-75 percent of birds captured never reach the exporter meaning at least 15-20 million birds are removed from their native habitat each year. At most the figure could be 100 million. This is not limited to small land birds but includes waterfowl and predators, sometimes in large numbers. If you are concerned over this problem in the U. S. the picture of the situation in England will be of interest to you. ed.

Swans of the World -- Sylvia Bruce Wilmore -- Taplinger Publishing Co., New York -- 229 p., many black-and-white photographs, line drawings and maps -- 1974 -- \$9.95.

Authors are turning in increasing numbers to the production of monographs on various groups of birds. This one covers the eight swans of the world in detail from perspective of the serious amateur. In addition the author traces the swan from its origins in prehistoric times telling which species have been hunted, painted on Stone Age cave walls or extolled in classical legends. The laws of England protecting swans and the curious customs which have grown around them are also covered. Swans are found throughout the world and their protection in the future will depend on international cooperation. ed.

Wildlife in North America - Birds -- R. D. Lawrence -- Chilton Book Co., Radnor, Pa. -- 256 p., 83 black-and-white photographs -- 1974 -- \$4.95 paperbound.

This book implies coverage of North American birds, but actually covers 53 species and the warblers (in 3½ pages). The chapters are a combination of the author's personal experience with the various birds and some general life history material. It is fairly well written but it is difficult to determine the audience it is written for. It cannot be recommended as a valuable or useful book for anyone. ed.

Birds of the South -- Charlotte Hilton Green -- Dover Publications, Inc., New York -- 277 p., 63 black-and-white illustrations -- 1975 -- \$3.50 paperbound.

This book is much like the one covered in the preceding review. It covers over 60 species common in the south and chiefly land birds. The author does describe size and color of male and female, song or vocalization, summer and winter habitats, type of nest, nesting period and egg color for all species included. Each chapter is introduced with a short poem dealing with the bird or birds covered. While this book is of more value than the one by Lawrence it still cannot be recommended for any particular audience. ed.

A Guide to Bird Watching -- Joseph J. Hickey -- Dover Publications, Inc., New York -- 252 p., 11 black-and-white illustrations, 4 p. of tracks, 30 tables, 3rd edition -- 1975 -- \$3.00 paperbound.

Hickey's book has been a classic for over thirty years (I.B.L. Vol. 14 p. 15). It is interesting to note that despite the inflation this edition is cheaper than the original bound edition. The best feature of the book is the ways that are detailed for

beginners to make a meaningful contribution to the science of ornithology. Some of the chapter headings are adventures in bird counting, romance of bird banding, explorations in bird distribution and the lure of migration watching. Specific instructions for making various censuses are included. The only revision was the reference list and the journal *Birding* was not included. It would have been very desirable to have included such current areas of easy and needed amateur participation such as the breeding bird surveys. It is still a very fine book, especially for beginners. The price is modest and anyone who is serious about making even a small contribution to ornithology should invest in this book. ed.

Naturalists' Color Guide -- Frank B. Smithe -- American Museum of Natural History -- 8 p. of color samples including 86 colors, a supplement of 229 p. -- 1975 -- 2 vols., one looseleaf -- \$9.00; one paperbound -- \$5.00; \$12.00 for both parts.

The purpose of these books is to provide a standard color guide for use in field and laboratory to avoid any misunderstanding. The supplement gives the details of the colors chosen, discusses the work of Ridgway and other specialists and explains the Munsell system of color notation. It is a valuable work to have in the field so a color may be correctly described at the time of an unusual sighting. The color samples are made of a long-lasting non-fading lacquer and they are located at the edge of the pages for easy comparison with the object under study. A mask is included to enable one to single out one color without distraction by another. Serious field workers will want this set and will find it easy to use and very beneficial. ed.

A Complete Guide to Bird Feeding -- John V. Dennis -- Alfred A. Knopf, New York -- 307 p., many line drawings -- 1975 -- \$10.00.

In recent issues of *Iowa Bird Life* we have reviewed books concerned with attracting birds by various means to our yards. This book zeros in on feeding and goes into considerably more detail than most previous efforts. The author begins by tracing the history of attempts to entice birds to the proximity of homes in the U. S. He then suggests the ways to start, always stressing the best interest of the birds. Many references to other sources of information are cited. He covers such problems as squirrel and cat visits, blackbird raids, window strikes, and feeder domination by one or two individuals. The second part of the book goes into the families that are usually attracted with specific ideas for luring them. The several appendices deal with specific foods and precautions with cross-reference notations, recipes and menus, species to be expected at eastern feeding stations, western strays that can turn up, escaped caged birds and exotics, and recent common name changes. This ranks as the best book yet on the subject and ideal for anyone who is serious about their feeding program. ed.

The Birds of New Jersey, Their Habits and Habitats -- Charles Leck -- Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, N. J. -- 207 p., 39 black-and-white photographs, 3 maps, 6 tables -- 1975 -- \$12.50.

Another state bird book and yet a different format! This book is expensive by comparison to the recent Kentucky and Minnesota (see below) representatives with their wide use of color. The approach consists primarily of detailed descriptions of eight "avian communities" which include the principal habitats in the state. The balance of the book contains a table of seasonal occurrence by months, discussion of Christmas and "Big Day" counts, an annotated check list, accidentals and aids to bird-watching in New Jersey including reference books, checklists and clubs. While this is a fairly small state geographically coverage of only eight areas, seven of them not extensive in area, seems rather incomplete. Examination of the book before purchase is suggested. ed.

Competition and the Structure of Bird Communities -- Martin L. Cody -- Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J. -- 324 p., many maps, charts and tables -- 1974 -- \$12.50 (\$6.95 paperbound).

A fine monograph delving into the role of competition in communities and the importance of the niche concept. The author explores communities on the basis of resource gradients, foraging sites, habitat and food types. The ideal community structure is tested through parallel and convergent evolution in similar habitats and climates on different continents. He also examines the direct influence of competitors by comparing low species island communities with high species mainland ones. This is a book written for the advanced student and the specialist, not the casually interested birder. ed.

Summer of a Million Wings - Arctic Quest for the Sea Eagle -- Hugh Brandon-Cox -- Taplinger Publishing Co., New York -- 184 p., 26 black-and-white photographs and many sketches -- 1975 -- \$8.95.

More than just the search for a Sea Eagle eyrie suitable for observation, this is an engrossing story of the breeding season of the Lofoten Islands in northern Norway. Located inside the arctic circle these rugged islands are the home of thousands of sea birds. The author captures the mood with his prose, his sketches and his camera. He does not overlook the songbirds, shorebirds and even the Ravens. The Sea Eagle has been greatly persecuted in Europe and its last stronghold lies in the northern reaches. The common concerns of conservationists throughout the world are woven into this account of the Sea Eagles and their fight for survival. ed.

Watching Sea Birds -- Richard Perry -- Taplinger Publishing Co., New York -- 230 p., 2 maps, many line drawings -- 1975 -- \$10.95.

Another account of breeding sea birds, this one more scientifically oriented than Brandon-Cox but still very engagingly written. The author spent one breeding season on Lundy off the south east coast of England and one on the Isle of Noss in the Shetland Islands. The species covered include Kittiwake, Gannet, Skuas, Guillemots, Puffins and Razorbills. It is a good presentation of detailed individual behavior throughout the nesting season. ed.

Donana - Spain's Wildlife Wilderness -- Juan Antonio Fernandez -- Taplinger Publishing Co., New York -- 254 p., 154 color photographs, 3 maps -- 1975 -- \$29.95.

This is a beautiful book on a fabulously interesting area. Coto Donana National Park is located in southwestern Spain near Gibraltar and Sevilla. The quality of the photographs is excellent. Some of the captions do not identify the species illustrated with one gull called a "seagull". Another photograph identified as a Squacco Heron is certainly an egret. The text is printed in very large type and is secondary to the photographs. The book begins with a brief outline of the history of the area. Next the author describes the biological areas, the corrals, dunes, pines, lakes, scrubland, cork oaks, and marshes are covered. Another chapter takes up the dominant predators. The regularly occurring vertebrates are listed by season in appendix form and a bibliography is included. The list of species seems fairly complete for birds listing 178 species, but only four fish are included. To have a glimpse of the most outstanding natural area in Europe you will want this book. It provides that glimpse and more. ed.

Winter Birding along the Mississippi River -- Elton Fawks and Terrence N. Ingram -- E.V.E., Box 155, Apple River, Illinois -- 13 p. -- 1975 (no date printed on book) -- paperbound, \$1.00.

Eagle Valley Environmentalists, Inc. is a non-profit corporation organized to preserve and restore natural environments and educate the public in these areas. Their land lies in Wisconsin almost directly across the Mississippi River from

Guttenberg, Iowa. The original need this group worked for was the establishment of a roosting area for wintering Bald Eagles. This book, as would be expected, stresses observing eagles. It progresses downstream and covers chiefly the lock and dam locations, good concentration points for eagles and water birds. The introduction mentions other less common birds found in these areas. The directions are good and mention some interesting spots of a non-birding nature.

Also available from the same group for \$3.50 is *The Eagles of Shingquak* by Catherine S. Butler (20 p.) This is really a children's book and tells the story of a pair of Bald Eagles nesting in northern Minnesota. It includes nine full page line drawings as well as the short story. ed.

The Naturalists' Directory -- compiled by Willard H. Baetzner -- P.C.L. Publications, Inc., South Orange, N.J. -- 270p. -- 1975 -- \$7.95, paperbound.

The 42nd edition of this long established directory is now available. We previously reviewed the last supplement (*I.B.L.* Vol. 43, p. 110). The directory provides potential contacts with other birders when traveling or within specialized interest areas. The new edition contains listings for individuals in all states and sixty other countries as well as societies, museums, zoos and publications. For the first time an alphabetical index and an index by discipline and specialty are included. The listing service for future editions is free. This would seem to be an especially valuable reference book for libraries. ed.

Minnesota Birds -- Where, When and How Many -- Janet C. Green and Robert B. Janssen -- University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis -- 217 p., 2 color plates, 20 black-and-white photographs, many maps -- 1975 -- \$9.75.

The useful concept of a state bird book which does not try to do "everything" has now spread to Minnesota. In the past it was felt that a state book should provide information on status and abundance within the state, illustrate the birds in color, detail and ornithological history of the state and perhaps even include an identification key. Roberts' *The Birds of Minnesota* is a prime example and while the result was often a fine book it was usually not useful in the field and with current prices would not be within reach of many who need the information. Last year Eckert published a fine Birder's Guide for Minnesota (*I. B. L.* Vol. 44 p. 108-9). Green and Janssen's book updates the meat of Roberts, the status and range of the birds of Minnesota. The many maps allow one to ascertain at a glance if a bird breeds or occurs in a particular section. The introductory chapters explain the format, and discuss the geography and ecology of the bird life. A few birds are illustrated with black-and-white photographs as are the major habitat types. The species accounts present the general status, migration status, summer and winter occurrence. The authors have a great deal of field experience with Minnesota birds and are probably the best qualified people for the task of compiling and writing this book. ed.

Christmas Bird Count - 1975

This year the Christmas Bird Count will be compiled by the editor. Forms will be sent to those who compiled counts last year in this magazine. Anyone wishing to establish a new count should write to the editor. Dates for the count are Dec. 20, 1975 to Jan. 4, 1976.

Pay Your Dues

It will be a big help to our Treasurer Ruth Buckles if you will pay your 1976 dues now. Her address is 5612 Urbandale Ave., Des Moines, Iowa, 50310. Notices not sent until after Jan. 1. ed.